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HOMES MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2016 £3.70

Ideal Home

976 Wonderful Ideas For The Home You Love

YOUR STRESS-FREE
Christmas starts here...

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- ❄ LOW-COST STOCKING FILLERS
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DRESSED TO PARTY**

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good times*

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*TERMS & CONDITIONS INSIDE



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Come home to play

Hard day at the office? Things on your mind? The solution is more fun than you think. Because the act of playing has been shown to decrease stress and develop problem solving abilities in adults and children. So round up the kids and hop, skip, jump your way to a relaxed evening with the new LATTJO range of toys and games.

LATTJO indoor range from £5



In this issue...

...find all you need to create a magical *Christmas to remember*. Give your home an elegant look for the holidays with *sparkling decorations* and fresh foliage (page 12), be inspired by the seasonal decorating ideas in this month's *reader homes* (page 30) and use shimmering luxe finishes to build a *glamorous scheme* for a sophisticated celebration (page 83). Treat friends to *home-made gifts* (page 128), then get the party started with our favourite *music apps* (page 155). Once guests have waved goodbye, relax in a soothing, *Scandi-style* sanctuary (page 20). Happy New Year!



READ THIS ON YOUR TABLET

Download your digital edition at housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine



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Fill your home with festive decorations



ON THE COVER VOLUME 191 ISSUE 5

Discover inspiration for every room with our edit of this season's trends

Give the perfect gift this year – we've found the latest tech buys

Find Christmas decorating ideas inside four lovely readers' homes

Create a party atmosphere with deep colours and lustrous metallics



Your chance to win £1,500 to spend on a dream bed from Button & Sprung

Enjoy 20% off beautiful lamps, shades and pendants at Pooky

Steal project ideas from these kitchen and bathroom makeovers

Get 20% off when you buy stylish shutters from California Shutters

STYLING SARITA SHARMA PHOTOGRAPH DOMINIC BLACKMORE



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look with an icy
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SHOPPING DIRECTORY
FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS
FEATURED IN IDEAL HOME, TURN TO
PAGE 168

Be relaxed.
Be cosy.
Be comfortable.



Be in the right bed for you.

In today's fast paced world the value of a great night's sleep is more important than ever. But how do you find the bed that's right for you? Our unique Comfort Station™ Adaptive system is designed to help you do just that.

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My to-do list for January

The things I'll be planning, doing and shopping for this month

This Christmas, I'll be taking a less-is-more approach, planning some perfect downtime and challenging my family to a board game fest they'll never forget.

SLOWING DOWN I'm pouring my physical and mental resources into the run-up, so I can do as little as possible when the holidays actually arrive. I have plans for extreme indolence involving (in this order): my M&S cashmere joggers; my parents' squashest sofa; a Miss Marple box set (Joan Hickson, of course); lots of cheese. Weight Watchers is on hold until 1 January!

UNPLUGGING Richmond Christmases do tend to be a bit telly-centric. I don't actually have a problem with that – I'm emotionally attached to Marple, the littlest Richmonds have an annual date with *The Muppets Christmas Carol* and Ma Richmond will be borderline cantankerous if she misses the *Strictly* Christmas spesh. But the dining table's going to do double duty this year as a jigsaw and board game station, so we can actually engage with each other face to face. I know the kids will love some sustained time with the biggest Richmonds, who must seem to be either always working or glued to their phones.

APPRECIATING THE LITTLE THINGS I walked into my parents' living room recently to find my creaky old Pa kneeling at the foot of a little Richmond, diligently filing her verruca (apologies if

you're eating). Watching him peer through his bifocals at the offending fungus, I felt a sudden rush of love for Pa and his quiet heroism. The child in question was absorbed in *Octonauts* and therefore oblivious to the pathos of the moment, and it struck me how many small acts of love by the parents Richmond my sister and I must have missed or forgotten over the years. They're not big on displays of affection, but this Christmas, Ma and Pa will be experiencing some serious payback. **SCALING BACK** Every year I feel a bit guilty about the excess – my over-shopping for gifts and panic-buying food nobody will eat. I do it out of fear of disappointing someone – will this be the year they'll actually want to eat the Christmas cake and boxes of dates? I'm going to try a quality-not-quantity approach this year and give the stuff we don't really need to the food bank – find your nearest at trusselltrust.org.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and New Year from the Ideal Home team...

Vanessa

Vanessa Richmond, Acting Editor

Find moments of calm and enjoy the magic of the festive season



Switch off the TV and make memories around the Monopoly board

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HELLO, WE'RE IDEAL HOME!

Together, we are a team of... multitasking mums, independents, wise empty nesters, single ladies ('all the single ladies...'), attached ladies, fierce Millennials, mellow mid lifers, property owners, free spirits, animal lovers, star bakers, crafters, DIY champions, health nuts, sofa slobbers, geeks and goddesses... but, above all, we're passionate home makers. Nice to meet you!

♥ Go to housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine to see more of what we do – you can sign up to our treat of a weekly newsletter there, too...

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JANUARY 2016 | 7

What's behind a Howdens kitchen?





Turn the page to read our story...

Expertise from beginning to end.



The raw material for Howdens' cabinets comes from trees grown in managed forests in the UK

We supply trade only professionals because they know how to install a fully working kitchen

Howdens Joinery is the UK's largest manufacturer and supplier of fitted kitchens, appliances and joinery products.

We know it takes trade specialists to install a great-looking kitchen and, importantly, one that works every time, every day. That's why we only sell to trade professionals like your local builder.

Our products are available from stock in each of our 600 depots throughout the UK, and in each depot expert planners are on hand to design your kitchen and support you and your builder throughout.

Talk to your local builder about Howdens, and visit www.howdens.com to see our full range of kitchens and joinery products, or call 0800 6888 167 to request a brochure.

We manufacture all our cabinets and most of our worktops in our factories in the UK

Kitchens designed for every home

Each of our 600 depots has expert kitchen planners to design your kitchen

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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
SUPPLIER OF FITTED KITCHENS
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LONDON



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JOINERY CO.

MAKING SPACE MORE VALUABLE

IDEAL HOME *Shopping Spy*

See Style Editor Michela's essential edit of what's in the shops this month



Follow my blog
homeshoppingspy.com

Blue bottles

Fill with sprigs of winter berries
Bubble glass stem vases in blue, £13.75 each, Berry Red



Lights, action

Bring Hollywood style to a movie night
Vegas metal LED circus light, £39, Cult Furniture



Natural winner

Add a silvery effect with eucalyptus leaves
Eucalyptus wreath, £39, The Contemporary Home



Subtle choice

Soft, natural tones with a festive twist
Cushion, £29.50, Marks & Spencer



Winter warmer

Keep it handy for those chilly nights
Grey chevron throw, £20, Matalan



Sofa snacks

Do you love sweet, salty, or both...?
Popcorn tub, £6.99, New Look



Silver polish

A hint of vintage
Mercury acorn, £5; fern etched mercury bauble, £6; both The White Company

So solid

This simple piece brings instant country charm
Stonemill console table, £249, Myakka



Delve inside

The perfect place to pile up pressies
Giant rattan log basket, £105, Garden Trading



Light frosting

For a little snow-kissed magic
Frosted pine cone, £3.50, Marks & Spencer



Hot seat

Provide a cosy place to sit and lift a neutral palette with a striking blue sofa
Patrick 2.5-seater sofa in Cadet Blue brushed linen, £1,680, Sofa.com

MOOD OF THE MOMENT...

Home for the holidays

Enjoy precious family time snuggled up watching classic Christmas movies

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

For an understated way to work a festive finish into a neutral palette, bring in fresh greens and add silver tones for subtle sparkle

Patrick 2.5-seater sofa in Cadet Blue brushed linen, £1,680, Sofa.com

BE
CANDLE
SAFE



LOOK WHAT
WE FOUND!



£50

Ideal as a chic table centrepiece
Small bell jar table lamp, BHS

See more finds on Michela's blog
homeshoppingspy.com

HILLARYS

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Transform your windows into the focal point of your home with made-to-measure window dressings from Hillarys. We've a wide range of designs to choose from, all in a wonderful array of colours and styles – so whatever your taste, we'll have something to suit. To really add that 'wow' factor, choose from our wonderful collection of shutters. Crafted to your exact requirements and made from the finest materials, they'll create a luxurious look that will truly stand the test of time.



TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR
CALL 0800 916 6501 OR VISIT HILLARYS.CO.UK



Star struck
Drape across a doorway or mantel
Stars garland, £23.49, Numero 74 range, Smallable



Pull together
A glamorous talking point for your table
Glitter crackers, £25 for 10, House of Fraser



Shimmer & shine
Use standout accessories to wow your guests
Noel sign, £95; Champagne saucers, £50 for four, LSA International range; all John Lewis

Everybody's
DOING...

Black and gold

Embrace the glamour and add Deco-style decadence to your Christmas and New Year scheme

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Cocktail hour
Toast the new year in style
Boutique Hotel wine glasses, from £6 each, John Lewis



Glam geometric
Nibbles will look enticing on this
Octagonal plate (23cm), £25, Wedgwood range, Amara

Go for gold
Place around the room before a party
Criterion coasters, £18.50 for four, Within



Top service
Practical but perfectly glam
Room Key tray (small), £14, West Elm



Bring on the bling
Give a plain sofa some sequinned sparkle
Silent Night cushion, £12, Matalan

3 of the best DRINKS TROLLEYS



Raise the bar
A simple, classic design in brass
Hex drinks trolley, Next



Rock solid
Create a lavish look with a marble top
Luxe drinks trolley, Oliver Bonas



Cocktail corner
Channel a bygone era with Thirties-style curves
Round brass and marble drinks trolley, MiaFleur

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



A dainty way to enjoy a tipple
Gin teacup, Yvonne Ellen range, Etsy

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com

Turn your friends
green... or blue...
or white... or striped.



A modern, French-inspired take on the Chesterfield design, the Bloomsbury range is as comfy as it looks. harveysfurniture.co.uk

Bloomsbury 3 Seater Sofa from £899.

*Sofas
by you*
COLLECTION

HARVEYS

GET THE LOOK
IN 3 BUYSLuxe
woodland*Forest frost*

Pop a few on the dining table for added sparkle

Glass acorn decoration, Marks & Spencer

£2

Fine feathers

Use with a wooden cheeseboard for contrast

Feather cheese knives, Laura Ashley

£35
for three

£45

Cosy touch

Fur adds the snug factor

Faux fur hot water bottle in Latte, The Fine Cotton Company

LOOK WHAT
WE FOUND!£2.50
each

Kids will love baking festive gifts for their friends

Copper cookie cutters, Sainsbury's

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com

*Silver style*

Fake the look of glass with this distressed-effect wallcovering

King's Mirror 98/13054 wallpaper, £95 per roll, Cole & Son

THE NEXT BIG THING
Antiqued glass

Vintage-style mirrors have gone rough-luxe

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

THE STORY SO FAR Aged glass may bring to mind grand old palaces, but the antiqued-mirror finish is having a modern makeover. Shaking off its shabby-chic persona, this mottled effect gives a rough-luxe look to walls and alcoves, especially when used with industrial-style furniture.

WHERE WE'VE SEEN IT Whether it's used for tiles, panels or wallpaper, this trend is taking a hold on walls. Evoking faded grandeur is Cole & Son's King's Mirror wallpaper – inspired by baroque quarters of Hampton Court Palace – and Harlequin's crackle-effect wallcovering, Eglomise. Bespoke companies, such as Rupert Bevan, Rough Old Glass, Clé and Glassology, create varied finishes on antiqued-glass panels, tiles and kitchen splashbacks. Andrew Martin combines the trend with his signature industrial style in Victor – a glass-topped metal coffee table.

LATEST RELEASES Ochre's Moon tables feature hand-tarnished glass tops with skinny steel frames, and Garth Roberts has designed a set of storage boxes for The Conran Shop, in collaboration with Italian expert Antique Mirror, which uses artisan techniques to create unusual glass finishes.

*High shine*
Adding elegance to an everyday style

Industrial ceiling lamp, £79, West Elm

*Box of gold*
Each design is a one-off

Lond Arco Baleno box, £200, Garth Roberts range, The Conran Shop

*Mirror, mirror*

An instant hit of glamour
Cervilla mirror, £550, Eichholtz range, Houseology

*Mercury rising*
Finished by hand for a unique surface

Round Moon Mercury coffee table, £1,824, Ochre

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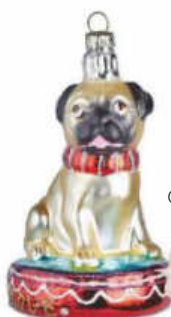
Feeling fruity
Add a touch of the
tropical to your tree
Glass pineapple,
House of Fraser

**American
dream**

Almost good
enough to eat
Glass hamburger,
Paperchase



£5



Pug life
Ideal for dog
lovers everywhere
Glass pug, The
Contemporary Home

£6

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£79

The metal of the moment in a
leggy, space-enhancing shape
Alana table in brass, Made.com

See more finds on Michela's
blog homeshoppingspy.com

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING, HOLLY CATFORD

This month we love...



Holly Catford, Acting Style and Decorating Assistant

'The new furniture collection from BHS
– this sleek glass coffee table and elegant
sofa provide a touch of relaxed glamour'

FOR WHERE
TO BUY ITEMS
SHOWN, TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY

Rosie sofa, £929; Sienna coffee
table, £229; metal star light,
£95; luxury supersoft fur throw
in Charcoal, £100; cushions,
from £15 each; bell jar with glitter
house, £15; glitter pear, £2.50;
giftwrap, from £4; all BHS



IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget

£120



**Written in
the stars**
Hand-painted with an
enchanted message
Small constellation
globe, Liberty

£15



Chalk it up
Write on your own
message or draw a
personalised map
of the world
Chalk globe, George

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JANUARY 2016 | 19

CASH CLEVER *Decorator*

Get a Scandi cabin feel for less than £95

Create a comforting festive sanctuary with a calm white palette, cosy textures and touches of sparkle

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Simple star

Top your tree with it or hang it on the front door
White wicker star, Dunelm

£3.99

Festive find

Snuggle up on the sofa with this wintry design
Snowflake cushion cover, Chalet Shop

Looking pine

Use a few to create a woodland feel
Glass pine cone bauble, Dobbies

£4.99

£44
for two

White house

Pop a candle inside for a charming display
Small tealight holder, Parlane International

£24

£14.95

Garland glow

Silver lights create a lovely atmosphere
Mercuried-glass light garland, Cox & Cox

YOUR RECEIPT

Wicker star, Dunelm.....	£4.99
Pine cone bauble, Dobbies.....	£3.99
Cushion covers, Chalet Shop.....	£44
Light garland, Cox & Cox.....	£24
Tealight holder, Parlane International.....	£14.95

TOTAL £91.93

IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget

Snowy scene

These indulgent crackers are filled with the finest of gifts
Luxury Midwinter Forest crackers, Cox & Cox

£40
for six

Rustic reindeer

A perfect finishing touch to your Christmas table
Kraft white deer Christmas crackers, Paperchase

£13
for six

BE
CANDLE
SAFE

Give your tree rustic style by combining stars, snowflakes and pine cones with cute woodland creatures

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Rustic Retreat



For details of this moodboard, turn to page 78

Bring a Nordic feel to your living room with oiled-wood tables, felt cushions and white-painted festive accessories

See more shopping inspiration over the page ▶

Find more Scandi-style buys on the high street

Love this trend? Whether you want to try a lot of it or a little, here's where to shop

Give Scandi style a more cosy feel with tactile textures or add glittering metallic touches for a luxe look.

TRY IT IN AN ELEGANT SCHEME

Explore this trend's softer side in a living room with neutral upholstery and weathered-wood furniture. The

pearlised pastel tree decorations at Tesco Direct will add a romantic mood.

...OR GO FOR MODERN GLAMOUR

Combine the steely grey tableware, inky-blue vases and sparkling silver candlesticks at Marks & Spencer to give your dining table an opulent feel.



Marvellous metallics

Mix mercurised silvers for a shimmering look
Tall glass bonbon jar, £55; mercury candle holders, from £19.50 each; hanging decorations, from £3 each; all Marks & Spencer



Country comforts

Team grey, taupe and copper tones with touches of soft pink
6.5ft Vienna sparkle tree, £50; Sophia mink herringbone loveseat, £399; Noel sequin cushion, £10; hanging decorations, from £1.50 each; all Tesco Direct

Word up

Welcome visitors with a festive sign
Christmas word tree, BHS



Simple style

Hang on the backs of chairs with ribbon
Glass egg decorations, Next



Good wood

Mix and match for a rustic look
Large wooden stars, Rigby & Mac



Bling ring

Frost your scheme with this beauty
Pine cone wreath, House of Fraser

FIND ALL THE DETAILS

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Quarter Paris Grey flat emulsion, £30 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Perendale carpet in Ecru, £108 per sq m, Flock Living. Cinnabar rug, from £195, Loaf. Large Malvern sofa in Grace linen, £700, Dunelm. Glendale coffee table, £499, John Lewis. Kimble nest of tables, £499, Ercol range, Marks & Spencer. Bluebell armchair in undyed Highland tweed, £780, Sofa.com. Henley 4ft sideboards, £995 each, Neptune. Beaumont 8kw stove in Ivory, £1,842; regular brick panel set, £474; both Chesney's. Classic fire tools set, £86, Morso. 7ft Norway Spruce Christmas tree, from £34.99, Kingswood Christmas Trees. **ON/NEAR SOFA** Cushions, from left: made in Quinton Clay; back and piping in Quinton Navaho; both £65 per m; made in Asuri Gypsum, £47.50 per m; all Romo; Snowflake cover, £44 for two, Chalet Shop; made in Quinton Clay;

back and piping in Quinton Navaho; both as before; made in Asuri Soapstone; piped in Asuri Henna; both £47.50 per m, Romo. Knitted basket, £22 for two, BHS. Nordic throw, £149, Indigo and Rose Homeware. Kraft giftwrap, £3 for 5m, Paperchase. Ribbons, from a selection, Jane Means. Crackers, £40 for six, Cox & Cox. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Tealight holders, £99.50 for six, Parlane International. Wooden tray, £28 for two, Retreat Home. Mug with cosy, £18; teapot with cosy, £108; both Linda Bloomfield. **ON NEST OF TABLES** Giftwrap, £12.50 per roll, Cox & Cox. Ribbons, as before. Hessian star, £2, George. Hand-made vase, from a selection, Linda Bloomfield. **ON CHAIR** Snowflake cushion cover, as before. **ON/NEAR TREE** Decorations, from a selection, Cox & Cox, Dobbies, Dunelm, George, House of Fraser, John Lewis, Parlane International and Retreat Home. Giftwrap; ribbons;

hessian star, all as before. **ON/ABOVE MANTEL** Light garland, £24, Cox & Cox. Star candlesticks, from £4.99 each; trees, £36.99 for three; all Retreat Home. Tealight houses, from £14.95 each, Parlane International. Noel sign, £15, BHS. Candles, as before. Skating print, £345, Ben Lowe range, Loaf. **ON LEFT-HAND SIDEBBOARD** Advent calendar, £65, Parlane International. Large Carlotta vase, £28, Brissi. Candle, from a selection, St Eval Candle Company. **ON/ABOVE RIGHT-HAND SIDEBBOARD** Cake stand, from £44, Linda Bloomfield. Baubles, £18 for 42, John Lewis. Joy sign, £15, Rose Cottage range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Candle; star candlestick; both as before. Medium Oslo candlestick, £22.50, Parlane International. Small Corinium lamp, £60; warm white shade, from £25; both Neptune. Zinc star, £65, Cox & Cox. Wooden star, £27.50, Parlane International



Christmas at home, naturally

A welcoming table, exquisitely set; delicious food; happy chatter; dancing candlelight

Hanley candlesticks from £25, Greenwich wine glasses £40 for 6, Emily linen tablecloth in Peat £77,

Bowsley tableware from £7, Holborn tealight holders £32 for 6, Scatter cushions from £40

Create your own designs at [neptune.com](https://www.neptune.com)
Stores nationwide

N
NEPTUNE

SHOP FLOOR
Craig's key role
at Christmas is
creating the magical
displays in store



HIGH STREET *Heroes*

Craig Roman

Meet the man responsible for turning Dobbies into an inspiring winter wonderland at Christmas

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Craig Roman joined Dobbies in 2002, and is now the head of visual merchandising, with responsibility for revitalising the Dobbies shopping displays and presenting its products in an exciting and approachable way. 'Garden retail is an inspiring and challenging environment that constantly changes with each new season,' explains Craig. 'Our customers love their homes, and Dobbies' key focus is to inspire and share ideas about how to make your home and garden seasonally relevant. It's a rewarding place to work, as you are encouraging people to embrace nature and a greener lifestyle.'

Christmas is an important time of year for the stores, with a dedicated

area set aside in each branch that is transformed into a magical winter wonderland to showcase the new range of festive products.

THE MAN BEHIND THE LOOK

Born and brought up in a rural part of Johannesburg, South Africa, with his Portuguese mother, Hungarian father and three elder sisters, Craig's love of gardening and the great outdoors started at an early age. 'We kept our own ducks, geese and chickens, and grew all our own vegetables, including some exotic ingredients for South Africa, such as paprika, kohlrabi and aubergines,' says Craig. 'As a child, I used to enjoy gardening with my mum, and my love of good food stems

THE REAL THING

There's nothing like a real Christmas tree at your door to welcome guests. Real tree, from £29.99; red berry lights, £24.99; tree decorations, from £2.99 each; poinsettia and berry wreath (diameter 20in), £19.99; poinsettia garland, £19.99; all Dobbies



from my parents, too. Because of their backgrounds, I'd go to school with unusual ingredients in my lunchbox, such as rye bread and cured hams. We are definitely a family of foodies.'

A childhood interest in art and dancing led Craig into studying fine arts and different forms of dance before he started his career in fashion retail. 'I used to work in Stuttards department store in South Africa, which is where I met Liz Muller, who is now the global creative director of Starbucks,' explains Craig. 'She was my first visual-merchandising boss

**KEEP IT SIMPLE**

Natural foliage and soft textures work well together

Two glitter trees on log, £9.99; mini watering can decoration, £2.99; green foliage heart wreath, £4.99; small tree in aluminium pot, £19.99; traditionally woven olive throw, £49.99; all Dobbies



who showed me that anything and everything is possible with hard work and conviction.'

Craig worked his way up in retail to become the head of visual merchandising at Edgars, South Africa's biggest and best department store. 'I'd reached the top of my game in South Africa, so I decided to come to England to work and started all over again from grass-roots level on the shop floor as a visual merchandiser,' he says. 'After an initial stint at Dobbies, I then spent five years at Wyevale Garden Centres, but came back to Dobbies in 2012. The highlight of my career to date is heading up visual merchandising for the best garden and home centres in the UK. I'm very proud to work here.'

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Craig now lives in a little village in Fife with his partner Adam, who works in the restaurant industry. 'Our house is an eclectic mix of old and new, with a good twist of African antiquity and injections of gardenalia - I have at least 30 treasured house plants,

and my garden changes seasonally with my moods,' he says. It is where the couple will be spending Christmas this year with friends and family from both London and South Africa. 'I love Christmas,' says Craig. 'We always have a real tree in the house and hang up stockings on Christmas Eve. I make our stockings from scratch each year and fill them with personalised surprises. Being a foodie, I can't resist reinventing the traditional Christmas meal. Last year, I did three ravioli baubles - one golden orb

"I make our stockings from scratch each year and fill them with personalised surprises"

stuffed with tender turkey smothered with a bread and butter sauce, a red one stuffed with cranberries, red onion and parsnips, and a green one for a starter that was filled with Brussels sprouts, parmesan and smoked bacon.'

THE CRAIG ROMAN PHILOSOPHY

'I believe you should let desired objects live in the right space, so they bring beauty to your life. I also love the Chinese proverb, "If you want to be happy for a short time, get drunk; if you want to be happy for a long time, fall in love; if you want to be happy forever, take up gardening"' →

CRAIG'S PICKS

From the Dobbies Christmas range

**KEEP IT TRADITIONAL**

Perfect for hanging on your front door as a festive welcome
Green holly wreath, £19.99, Dobbies

**SNOWY SCENE**

Brighten up your mantelpiece with this decoration in a glass dome
Church scene glass cloche on stand, £17.99, Dobbies

TOP SOCK

Hang this cable-knit stocking ready for Santa's gifts

Knitted cable stocking, £11.99, Dobbies

**FAKE IT**

No one will be able to tell the difference with a good-quality faux tree

2.1m Keilder snowy spruce tree, £170, Dobbies





REFLECTIVE SURFACES

Add soft sparkle with aged-gold decorations. Antique-look gold stag, £24.99; antiqued hurricane, £12.99; gold-ribbed glass bauble, £3.99; all Dobbies



FOODIE CHOICE

Craig loves to dine at exciting restaurants – his favourite is Castle Terrace in Edinburgh



HEADY FRAGRANCE

Use a scented candle to create a festive feel – this is Craig's favourite. Hogmanay whisky goblet candle, £17, Shearer Candles

GO GREEN

You can't beat the fresh scent of a Fraser fir. 4ft 8ft traditional Fraser fir tree, from £29.99, Dobbies



GET COMFY

An upholstered armchair is the perfect spot for Craig to enjoy a festive tippie. Covercraft Lincoln button backed armchair, £1,253, Annie Mo's

Craig's inspiration...



GET TO KNOW HIS SIGNATURE STYLE

'Like a perfect herbaceous border, I prefer everything to work

in harmony, with fun, flamboyant colours that change with every season. I find inspiration in almost everything I see and I'm constantly searching for what is unique about each season, what our customers are looking for, what reflects the world today and the things that bring beauty into our lives. I try to visit as many new restaurants and boutique hotels as I can, as I believe they influence many homeowners who want to bring a sense of escapism and individuality into their homes. And I'm constantly on the lookout for upcoming

trends and exciting things that are about to emerge. I always pick up new ideas on my travels to other countries – on a recent expedition home to Johannesburg, I made sure I visited a particular area of the city where I'd heard interesting foodie things were happening. I'm also influenced by the designs I see in other stores and at trade shows. I love fashion and have found inspiration at the recent Alexander McQueen exhibition in London, as well as in Vivienne Westwood's fascinating new book about her life and work. I'm also incredibly lucky to work with a great team of people who are a constant source of inspiration – we're very close, hard-working and we enjoy building ideas and seeing projects through together.'

FEATURE KAREN BRAY



UNDER COVER

A miniature festive moment. Winter scene in glass tree with bark base, £14.99, Dobbies



FASHION ICON

Craig found this fascinating biography an inspiring read. Vivienne Westwood by Vivienne Westwood and Ian Kelly (£25, Picador)



ROUND ROBIN

Perk up your tree with this enchanting design. Clear robin bauble (diameter 80mm), £3.99, Dobbies



BRITISH WILDLIFE

Cosy up with this nature-inspired checked cushion. Green tartan owl cushion, £14.99, Dobbies

French door elegance behind closed doors



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ADL5

‘White tones create a sense of calm’

Make a cool palette feel welcoming with cosy textiles and natural materials – it works in Jeltje and Erik Smit’s home

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big CHANGE

RENOVATING AND
EXTENDING A SMALL,
RUN-DOWN HOUSE
TO TURN IT INTO A
LIGHT AND BRIGHT,
OPEN-PLAN HOME



Get the
LOOK
PAGE 40

1 Living room

A corner of the open-plan space has been turned into a snug place to relax

Hay Bella coffee table, £159, Nest. For a similar oversized pouffe, try the knitted pouffe, £89, Marks & Spencer

2 Living room

Jeltje refreshed an old teak cupboard by sandpapering it and painting it white

For a similar cabinet, try the Provençale ivory armoire, £914, Laura Ashley. For a similar rug, try the Safavieh Zoe shag white, £228, Wayfair





‘White is my favourite colour to work with; it puts me at ease. Layering natural materials, such as wool and wood, has added a warm, rustic look’

3 Open-plan living room/kitchen

By knocking through the walls on the ground floor, the Smits have created a single open-plan space large enough for a living area and kitchen

For a similar rug, try the vintage Moroccan wedding blanket, £284, BoutiqueMaroc range, Etsy

4 Living room

'Erik wanted a flat-screen TV but I didn't like the idea of a black screen in the room, so I designed a birch ply cupboard to hide it in,' says Jeltje

For a similar star, try the small distressed white wash star wood ornament, £6, B&Q



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR



THE PROPERTY

A traditional Dutch 'dike' house built in 1890 in Abcoude, near Amsterdam, Holland. The owners bought it in April 2013.

WHO LIVES HERE

Jeltje and Erik Smit, with their baby daughter, Steffi. Jeltje is a photographer and Erik is an estate agent.

THE LOOK

Clean lines and minimal details make a sleek background for soft, warm textures and a palette of white and cream.

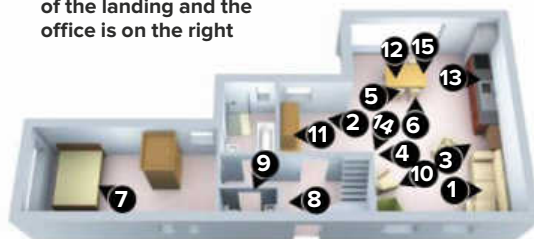
LESSONS LEARNED

“Bedrooms don't have to be on the first floor. By creating space for our bedroom downstairs, we've left plenty of space in the loft room for a nursery and office.”



▲ FIRST FLOOR

The nursery is to the left of the landing and the office is on the right



▲ GROUND FLOOR

The main bedroom, a bathroom and a loo are to the left of the front door. Straight ahead, a door leads to the open-plan kitchen, dining and living area



‘Creating an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area seemed the best way to achieve a sense of light and space’

You need to be quick to find a great property, but Jeltje Smit literally ran to find her perfect family home in Abcoude in Holland. ‘It was Christmas 2012 and I was jogging by the dike when I saw this house for sale,’ she says. ‘At the time, my husband Erik and I were living in a converted windmill on the other side of the village. It had been in our family for 45 years – my parents lived there, then my brother, and Erik and I had been there for five years.

‘The windmill was lovely, but it was small and impractical, with crooked walls and narrow stairs. We wanted to start a family, so needed something larger – and that’s when I saw this place. We weren’t the only ones keen to buy

the house. It had just gone on the market and had been viewed 20 times, so we put our name on the list. Gradually, the other bidders dropped out as they realised it was in poor condition. Finally, in April 2013, the property was ours.’

The previous owner was an elderly lady. ‘She was remarkable – she was 104 and still climbed the stairs to her bedroom every night,’ says Jeltje. ‘But the 19th-century property wasn’t insulated and its roof beams and floorboards were rotten and needed to be replaced, as did the windows and wiring. There was an old fireplace and three layers of dirty carpet.’

The couple had big plans for the house. ‘To make the most of the building’s footprint, we decided to extend into the adjoining garage and turn it into a downstairs bedroom for ➔

5 **Kitchen**

‘Our builder made the units out of birch ply,’ says Jeltje. ‘I had to whitewash them five times to get the result I wanted’

For similar cabinets, try the Innova Luca matt white, from £38.66 for a base unit, DIY Kitchens

6 **Dining room**

Delicate decorations hung on branches and displayed in a vase make a simple but effective table centrepiece

For a similar table, try the Bjursta extendable, £190, Ikea. Hay About A Chair, £179, Nest





7 Main bedroom

Jeltje and Erik converted the garage into their bedroom. Plenty of soft textures makes it a lovely retreat for the couple
Z1 pendant light, £325, Bodie and Fou. For a similar cupboard, try the Colonial mirrored wall cabinet, £89, Very

‘Having the sleeping, living, cooking and dining areas all on one floor is very practical’

us,' says Jeltje. 'We also wanted to knock out all the internal walls to create an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area. It seemed the best way to achieve a sense of light and space.'

It was eight months before they were granted planning permission and could put their ideas into practice. The couple stayed in the windmill while the six-month transformation took place. 'We took down the walls and ceiling and tore up the floorboards, so that only the exterior walls and roof were left,' says Jeltje. 'It gave the builder an empty shell to work with. Luckily, we had a good contractor and everything went smoothly. He made the building structurally sound, installed insulation and underfloor heating, and even built the kitchen, bathroom and storage. He made all our ideas come to life.'

It can be hard to make a small space look uncluttered, or an all-white room feel warm and cosy, but the Smits have achieved both. Creating a clean, spare background was key. The flooring is poured concrete with an anhydride layer, giving a smooth base that looks like resin but is cheaper. The couple chose handleless kitchen units for a fuss-free effect and sleek and contemporary bathroom fittings. The décor throughout is a minimal palette of white, cream and wood. 'The walls in our old house were white because it made the rooms seem more spacious,' says Jeltje. 'Even though →



8 Hallway

There wasn't room for a dressing table in the couple's bedroom, but it fits perfectly here

For a similar dressing table, try the Broughton ivory dressing table mirror and stool set, £693, Laura Ashley



9 Cloakroom

A sliding door was installed in this small room to save space

For a similar unit, try the Godmorgon Odensvik washstand, £240, Ikea. For similar taps, try the Quadra Moon White wall-mounted basin tap, £240, Grohe range, Taps UK

3 of the best FESTIVE BUYS

Scandi style
We love the owl perched at the top
Wooden Christmas tree (H51cm), Idyll Home

£9.95

Cool yule
Makes a lovely table centrepiece
Triple star tealight holder, Tesco

£5

Go for gold
With mini lights for sparkle
Lit gold glitter ivy wreath, Next

£25



10 *Living room*

Jeltje made the wooden Christmas tree and decorations herself. The cane chair adds natural warmth to the all-white décor

For a similar armchair, try the Rattan in Natural, £365, Out There Interiors. For a similar rug, try the Quad sheepskin, £130, Dunelm

11 *Living room*

'This vintage Norwegian sewing box belonged to my grandmother,' says Jeltje. 'I painted it white for a fresh look'

For a similar sewing box, try the Provençal pretty white bedside table, £242, The French Bedroom Company. For a similar basket, try the Natural Belly basket, £25, Olli Ella

this property is bigger, it's still my favourite colour to work with; it puts me at ease somehow. That's why I painted the walls and furniture white. And layering natural materials, such as wool and wood, has added a warm, rustic look.'

The ground floor now has an apartment feel. 'Having the sleeping, living, cooking and dining areas all on one floor is very practical,' says Jeltje. Upstairs, in the revamped roof space, the former bedroom has been divided into a study and a nursery. 'During the move, I found out I was pregnant,' says Jeltje, who has since given birth to a daughter, Steffi. 'This house makes a wonderful family home and we feel part of a community. Our last place was in a more remote spot. Here, we are still in the countryside but we have lots of neighbours.'

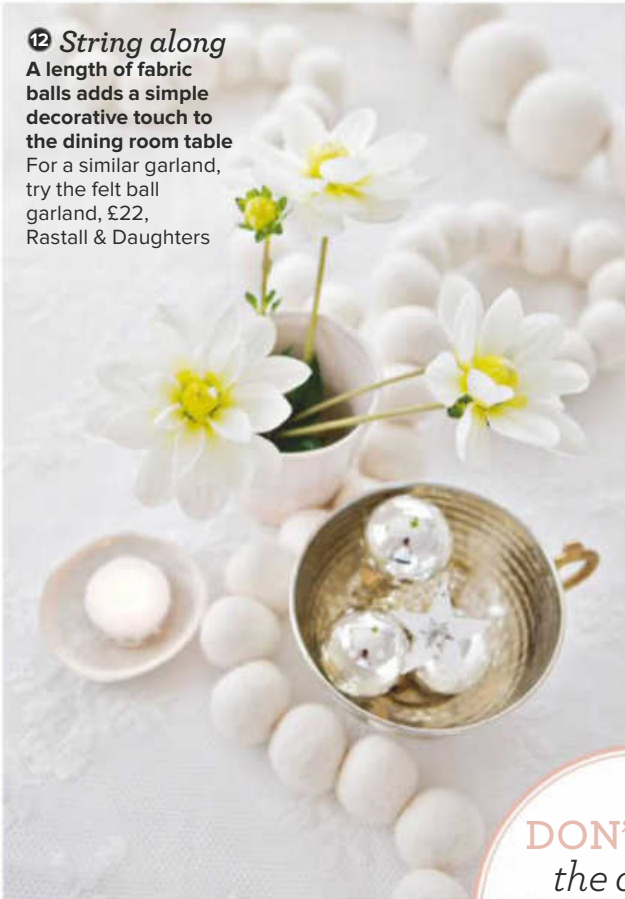
For the festive season, Jeltje has filled the rooms with decorations, many of which are home-made. And of course, in this house, it's guaranteed to be a white Christmas. 'We're looking forward to spending time at home as a family,' says Jeltje. 'My parents, grandmother and our siblings will all be coming over.'



12 String along

A length of fabric balls adds a simple decorative touch to the dining room table

For a similar garland, try the felt ball garland, £22, Rastall & Daughters



13 Kitchen

Beautiful stoneware lined up on a floating shelf adds pale colour

For a similar wooden board, try the oak serving paddle board, £95, DesResDesign

DON'T MISS
the details

Natural wood, metal and ceramic pieces add texture and interest to a white scheme

14 Living room

Niches in the wall beneath the stairs provide useful storage space

Wooden star shapes, £2.49 for 25, Dovecote Woodcraft range, eBay



15 Branch out

Jeltje uses twigs from the garden to display festive decorations

For a similar bauble, try the large gold glitter pine cone, £8, Linea range, House of Fraser





Get Jeltje's look

Warm up a white scheme with cosy knits and natural weaves

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

IDEAL



Great shape
Beautiful curves
Koura light (H50cm
x diameter 30cm),
David Trubridge
range, Amara

£65

£340



GREAT DEAL



£27

Lighter shade
Bamboo at a
bargain price
Colours Pianosa
shade (H40cm x
diameter 23cm), B&Q

£32.99



Chic chevrons
Pop some pattern in
among plain cushions
Chevy knitted cushion,
Luku Home

£710



Shades of pale
Add subtle geometrics
with this unusual rug
Everest Ruby rug (W140cm
x L200cm), Kelaty

£250



Take a seat
Rustic rattan gets
an update in grey
Bloomingville small
rattan chair, Out
There Interiors

£340



White out
Simple Scandi chic
Norman Copenhagen Tablo
coffee table (H43cm x
diameter 78cm), Houseology

£1,599

All square
Keep your sofa unfussy
in an all-white scheme
Harlow three-seater Italian
leather sofa (H86cm x W199cm
x D95cm), Very



Treat for feet
Sink toes into the
sumptuous shaggy pile
Luxe Berber rug (W100cm
x L170cm), John Lewis

£175



£40

Sit pretty
This rattan chair
also comes in
black or green
Holmsel armchair
in grey, Ikea

In contrast
Wood adds extra warmth
Miami coffee table
(H40cm x W100cm x
D50cm), Tesco Direct

£49



£529

Contemporary cool
Go for this modern, boxy shape
with linen-look upholstery
Nockeby three-seater sofa
in Risane White (H66cm x
W251cm x D97cm), Ikea



FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPH
JELTJE JANMAAT/HOUSE OF PICTURES

What you
smell.

What your
guests smell.



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light Christmas scent.



Breathe Happy

‘We’ve given it back its character’

Follow Rachel Holland and Ruben Stephenson’s example and lavish love on a period property to return it to its former glory

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big **CHANGE**

RENOVATING A RUN-DOWN
PERIOD PROPERTY,
CONVERTING THE LOFT,
REPLUMBING, REWIRING
AND REDECORATING
THROUGHOUT





BE
CANDLE
SAFE

1 Dining area

Traditional and modern elements have been teamed with mismatched chairs to create an elegant yet relaxed feel

For a similar black chandelier, try the Bellatrix, £700, Out There Interiors. Grandprix rose table centre, £41, Appleyard Flowers

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH AROUND
£320,000	£110,000	£700,000

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Grade-II-listed, Georgian town house in Old Portsmouth, Hampshire. The owners bought it in August 2007.

WHAT IT COST

Loft conversion.....	£70,000
Kitchen.....	£10,000
Bathrooms.....	£8,000
Carpets.....	£2,000
Decorating.....	£5,000
Furniture.....	£15,000
TOTAL.....	£110,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Rachel Holland and Ruben Stephenson, with their children, Millie, seven, and Zeb, five. The couple run their own commercial-diving company.

THE LOOK

Eclectic and colourful, with a mix of traditional and contemporary styles.



LESSONS LEARNED

“In hindsight, it would have been cheaper and more efficient to have carried out the renovation in one fell swoop, instead of doing it in two separate phases.”



◀ **SECOND FLOOR**
The bathroom is positioned between the children's bedrooms



◀ **THIRD FLOOR**
The main bedroom with an en suite and a balcony are in the loft conversion



▲ **LOWER-GROUND FLOOR**
Stairs from the ground floor lead down to a cellar



▲ **GROUND FLOOR**
A large open-plan kitchen-diner spans the entire ground floor



▲ **FIRST FLOOR**
On this floor, there's the living room and a guest bedroom with an en suite



Get the
LOOK
PAGE 52

2 Kitchen

The island is made from two sideboards pushed back to back. A black chandelier adds a touch of glamour. Bravurn wall clock, £45; for a similar sideboard unit, try the Hemnes console table, £130; both Ikea





When Rachel Holland and Ruben Stephenson bought their first home together, they had no idea that the once dilapidated Georgian town house would become such a sociable hub, especially during the festive season. 'We've got such lovely neighbours,' says Rachel. 'One year, a Christmas party turned into an open house – 80 revellers squeezed in for a fun evening.'

The couple chose to buy a house in the Portsmouth Harbour area, close to where their commercial-diving business is based, and when they discovered this period property, they knew

it was the one for them. 'I've always wanted to live in a character home and I was blown away by the place,' says Ruben. 'The sea views are amazing and I decided that no matter what condition it was in, we'd have to buy it.'

However, the couple had a reality check when they were confronted with the property's tired interior. 'It had been a rental property for years and was bland and soulless,' says Rachel. 'All the character had been ripped out or covered up, and it still had an outside loo.'

While others may have dismissed the work on the property as a step too far, optimistic Ruben and Rachel relished the opportunity to breathe new life into it. Once the house ➔

3 **Living room** Cushion covers in jewel tones bring a warm, cosy feel to the neutral sofa

Arkona cushions in Cranberry, £30 each; Lewis cushions in Fig, £25 each; all John Lewis



‘Removing the wallpaper was intriguing as, layer by layer, the house’s past was revealed’

4 Living room

The couple have given their tree a traditional look with a red and gold colour scheme
Shatterproof baubles, £10 for 34; onion bauble glass gold effect, £1.50; all Nature’s Noel range, Wilko

3 of the best SILVER ACCENTS



£295

Looking glass
The rope strap adds a nautical touch
Lyvedon mirror (diameter 48cm), The Chandelier & Mirror Company



£5

Festive sparkle
Create a vintage vibe with this antiqued silver finish
Silver glass candlestick, Sophie Allport



£24.50

Dishy number
Handy for living-room odds and ends – or fill it with bonbons
Kelston scalloped dish, One World Trading Co



5 *Main bedroom*

Pops of vibrant colour create a fresh, edgy feel
Ruffle king-size bed in Turmeric Clever Velvet, £995, Loaf. Como cushions in silver, £25 each; London 1922 mantel clock, £90; all John Lewis

6 *En suite*

The exposed brick wall is part of the old chimney breast. 'I bought the period-style basin for £20 on eBay,' says Rachel
Peppermint Prismatics gloss tiles, £26.45 per sq m, Johnson Tiles

was theirs, they set to work and began stripping the property back to its bare bones.

'It was cathartic to get rid of the smelly old carpets and removing the wallpaper was intriguing as, layer by layer, the house's past was revealed,' says Rachel. 'We couldn't believe it when we were handed some handwritten deeds that dated back to 1745.'

The couple lived in the house for a year as they worked out how to remodel the higgledy-piggledy layout and began to decide on the look they wanted. Aiming to preserve the property's character, they opted for a traditional feel but with contemporary elements mixed in for a fresh, eclectic look. 'We were also keen to have children and wanted to make the house family friendly,' says Rachel.

In 2008, the work began. An open-plan kitchen-diner was created downstairs, while on the first floor, walls were repositioned and a bathroom removed to create a larger bedroom and shower room. To make space for a family bathroom on the third floor, walls in the two bedrooms were repositioned. Rotting windows were replaced, brickwork exposed and floors either relaid or carpeted.

After their children, Millie and Zeb, were born, the couple needed more space. They decided to convert the loft into a main →



‘It had been a rental property and was bland and soulless. All the character had been ripped out or covered up’



7 Main bedroom

Rachel wanted this room to have a contemporary feel, in contrast to the more traditional parts of the house. ‘It’s a tranquil space and the sea views are superb,’ she says. For a similar pendant light, try the Bali 1 light bowl, £158, Wayfair



8 Zeb's room

The jaunty nautical theme reflects the house's coastal location. Walls painted in St Giles Blue Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Kura reversible bed, £130, Ikea.

9 Bathroom


A classic roll-top bath contrasts with the industrial-look scheme. For a similar bath, try the Marlborough slipper, from £2,625, Victoria + Albert Baths.

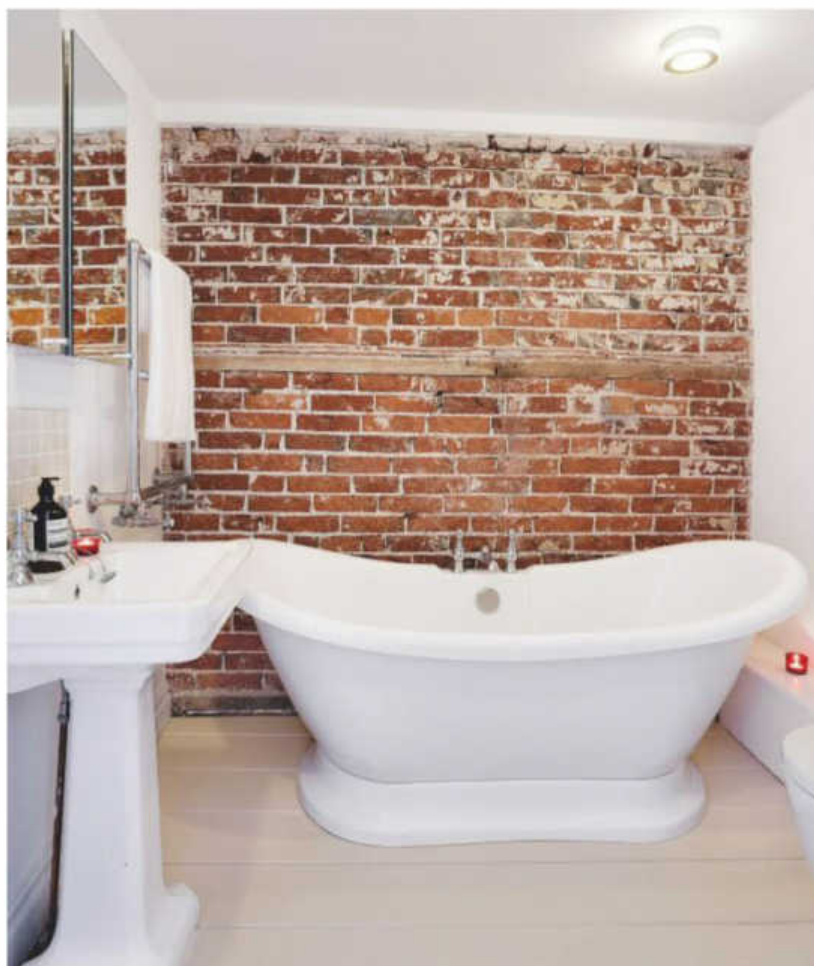
'We were keen to have children and wanted to make the house family friendly'

bedroom and shower room, which would free up a bedroom for guests and create a top-floor suite that would take advantage of the sea view.

After contacting architect Carl Leroy-Smith, plans were drawn up. 'We realised that since the joists would have to be removed, this was a great chance to gain extra head height in the children's bedrooms,' says Rachel.

Once planning permission was gained, work on the next phase of the transformation began in 2014. The couple hired builder Jeremy Westcott of Westcott Construction. 'Jeremy and his team were fantastic,' says Rachel. 'He knew just what we were after. In addition to tackling the loft and improving the family bathroom, he replaced the front door and some windows, and redecorated the entire house.'

Rachel and Ruben are delighted with their home. They've created a unique look that stays true to the property's period character, combining exposed brickwork and traditional styling with touches of contemporary colour and detail. This elegant property has become a home the whole family can enjoy, both at Christmas time and throughout the year. 





10 Main bedroom
Rachel upcycled this chest of drawers and added some fun stag drawer knobs
For similar drawer knobs, try the metal stag, £6.95 each, Glint



11 Dining area
Framed house deeds provide a glimpse into the property's history
For a similar chair, try the Charlotte in Lupin pure cotton matt velvet, £680, Sofa.com

DON'T MISS
the details

Upcycle old furniture and include quirky, personal touches to give your home a unique, eclectic look



12 Kitchen
A menu board makes a feature of the range-style cooker, which sits snugly in a recess
A1-7 Opera cooker, £1,459, Smeg range, Ao.com



13 Main bedroom
A bold new colour has transformed this old chest of drawers
Drawers painted in Chalk Paint in Florence, £18.95 for 1ltr, Annie Sloan

Love Rachel's style?

Give your kitchen a touch of grandeur with statement pieces and dramatic accent colours

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

KITCHEN



Black units provide a bold contrast to the pale wood



£39

Clock on
Create a focal point with a timepiece
Contemporary clock (diameter 33cm), Wayfair

Hot seat

This metal stacking stool looks majestic in a brass finish

Xavier P
Tolix style
brass finish
stool (H75cm),
Cult Furniture

£79

Period drama

Go for wow factor
Buttress chandelier,
The French
Bedroom Company

£195



£6.49

Daily bread

Co-ordinate accessories
Classic enamel bread bin
(H32cm x W18cm x
D23cm), John Lewis

£25



Chalk it up

Get into the festive spirit
Christmas
chalkboard
(H21.5cm x W17cm),
Ginger Ray

Wheely useful

A handy extra
surface for food prep
or breakfasting
Förhöja kitchen trolley
(H22cm x W45cm x
L104cm), Ikea



ASK RACHEL

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

'Our recent loft conversion. We never tire of the stunning views over Portsmouth Harbour and out towards the Isle of Wight.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL INTERIORS SHOP?

'The Cowshed on the Isle of Wight sells the most amazing furniture and antiques. I often pick up a quirky piece when we pop over for the day.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR WORST DECORATING DISASTER?

'Ruben went through a stage of using far too much French grey paint in our kitchen. It ended up resembling a battleship!'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOMES BUY?

'Our bed from Loaf. We just love the bright colour of the velvet headboard.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET?

'I constantly look through interiors magazines, then try out ideas that appeal in our own home.'

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI | PHOTOGRAPHS BRUCE HEMMING



£80

What caught your eye first, the kitchen or the price?



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wren
KITCHENS

‘A more open feel made it right for us’

Craving space and light? Copy Miranda Huijs and Machiel van der Plas and reconfigure rooms to suit your family

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big **CHANGE**

RENOVATING A RUN-DOWN FORMER SHOP, RESPECTING THE HISTORIC PROPERTY'S PERIOD FEATURES WHILE GIVING IT AN UPDATE FOR A LARGE FAMILY



BE
CANDLE
SAFE

1 Living room

Knocking down walls and teaming white décor with wood floors has created a bright, spacious room that's ideal for family living

For a similar stool, try the chunky knit mini, £110, Cox & Cox



2 Dining room

The original fittings in this room date back to when it was a shop. The family use it as an office most of the time, but it's turned into a dining room for big parties

For similar wooden chairs, try the stacking, £305 each, Ercol Originals range, Houseology

Get the
LOOK
PAGE 64

‘We were married at Christmas, so this is a really special time of year for us. We invite lots of relatives to share the celebrations’



**3 Dining room**

A dark honeyed-wood ladder and 19th-century French mahogany table, add warmth and depth to the office/dining room

For a similar table, try the dining, £590, Kelvin range, Wayfair. For a similar wooden ladder, try the wooden towel ladder, £99, Oka

4 Living room

Miranda, Machiel and their five children pile onto an antique Chesterfield sofa in the living room

For a similar sofa, try the Rebel, £2,995, Andrew Martin range, Majeurs Chesterfield. For a similar rug, try the Chocolate sheepskin, £45, Fishpools



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A detached, three-storey town house, built in 1860, in Velp, the Netherlands. The owners bought it in November 2008.

WHO LIVES HERE

Miranda Huijs and her husband, Machiel van der Plas, with their children, Iris, 15, Joep, 14, Isa and Eline, both 13, and Eva, eight. The couple run a property-restoration business.

THE LOOK

Classic yet contemporary, with white walls, waxed wooden floors

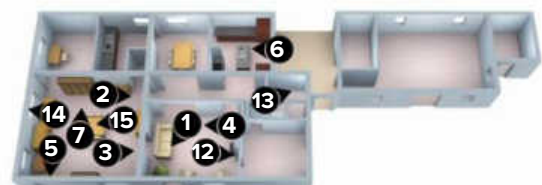
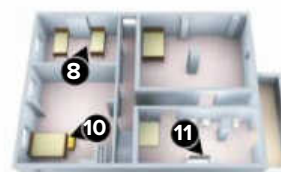
and windows, and a mix of modern and antique furniture.

LESSONS LEARNED

“With a period property, it’s essential to find contractors who understand how to work with a historic building. We took our time to find a firm we were happy with.”

GROUND FLOOR ▶

To the left of the hall is a study, the main living room and an office that is also used as a dining room. On the right is the kitchen-diner, a utility room and another study

SECOND FLOOR ▶
Iris and Eline share a bedroom in the loft**◀ FIRST FLOOR**
The main bedroom and Eva and Isa's room are at the front. At the back is Joep's room, a bathroom and a verandah

Christmas is all about celebrating with friends and family, but when the festive season coincides with your wedding anniversary, there's even more cause to string up the fairy lights and make a toast with a glass of Champagne. Miranda Huijs and Machiel van der Plas got married at Christmas three years ago. 'We have a bauble from our honeymoon hotel that comes out every year as a memento,' says Miranda. 'It's a special time of year for us, as not only does it mark our commitment to each other, it's also when our children came together as one big, blended family. We invite lots of relatives to share the celebrations with us.'

There couldn't be a better place for a family party. This detached villa in the pretty Dutch town of Velp was originally a grocer's shop. When Miranda and Machiel first saw it in June 2008, the large front room still had its original store fittings, including honey-coloured wooden shelves they were determined to keep. Unfortunately, the rest of the listed building was in poor repair.

The roof leaked, the ground floor was divided into a series of small, impractical spaces, the floors and window frames were rotten, and there was damp throughout. But there were a few magical remnants that hinted at the property's potential – enamelled tiles around the entrance, oak beams, glass-panelled doors and high, decorative ceilings. 'We didn't →



⑤ Dining room

Eva sits on the original shop cabinets, which Miranda painted white

For similar paint, try Once Interior Timeless Satinwood, £18.48 for 750ml, Dulux



⑥ Kitchen-diner

A floor-to-ceiling cupboard between the kitchen and dining area was removed to create an open feel, complemented by the unfussy units and marble work surface

For similar units, try the Rialto high-gloss light grey, from £221 for a W600mm base unit, Crown Imperial

'We wanted a place that was big enough for our two families and started from scratch, taking nothing from our former homes'

7 Dining room

The couple were keen to retain some features from the building's former life as a shop, such as this beautiful vintage cabinet, which keeps tableware to hand

For a similar cabinet, try Lassco. For a similar Buddha figure, try the Sitting Buddha, £50, John Lewis



hesitate to put in an offer,' says Miranda. 'Just five months later, the house was ours.'

Machiel is an expert in period renovations – he founded his company, Hermon Erfgoed, which specialises in the restoration of religious and historic monuments, in 2012. Miranda, a former youth worker, is now a project manager for the business. But, back in 2008, their focus was on creating a home for their children from their previous relationships. 'Machiel and I both wanted a fresh start and we needed a place that was big enough for our two families,' Miranda explains. 'We started from scratch, taking nothing from our former homes, and we've filled this house with things we both like. Luckily, our tastes are very similar.'

The family lived in the house for a year while Miranda and Machiel plotted out the restoration project and obtained planning permission for the various structural changes they wanted. They then moved into rented accommodation nearby for the next year, hiring a local contractor to carry out the work. As well as the necessary repairs to the roof, floors and windows, the major change was the reconfiguration of walls to create larger rooms and improve the flow of the space.

'Our goal was to pare back the rooms, so the period features wouldn't fight with the rest of the décor,' says Miranda. 'Apart from Eva and Isa's bedroom and the bathroom, the house has white walls and waxed wood floors. I look on it as a serene blank canvas. I choose my →

'Machiel and I work hard to find the heart of a house. I'm really proud we've achieved that in our home, too'



8 Bedroom

Eva and Isa's bedroom is decorated in a soft pink for a whimsical, girly look

For a similar bed, try the Princess, £349, The Children's Furniture Company. To create a similar stool, try the Icelandic sheepskin seat cover, £50, Cox & Cox

3 of the best FESTIVE LIGHTING



Star light

This tealight holder comes in a set of two – one black, one white – perfect for a chic monochrome scheme
Tealight holder (H24cm), Next



Golden glow

Stand this Scandi Christmas lantern on the hearth to create a warm glow
Bloomingville lantern in gold (H30cm), Out There Interiors



Bright character

Spell out a Christmassy phrase with light-up letters and symbols
Metal and wooden light up letter (H40cm), The Alphabet Store



9 Bedroom

Iris and Eline's attic room has a treehouse den feel thanks to the exposed beams and hammock

For a similar hammock, try the Sambito, £125, Skagerak range, The Salcombe Trading Company. For a similar zebra print, try the Camouflage 1, from £29.99, AllPosters.co.uk



10 Main bedroom

External shutters filter light into the couple's bedroom, where a mix of textures keeps the pared-back scheme warm and inviting

For similar wall paint, try Plummest Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For a similar bench, try the Bloomingville with goatskin, £379, Amara

pieces carefully and they come into their own when there are no distractions.'

The former shop room is a showcase for Miranda's decorating style. The original floor-to-ceiling cabinets have been left in situ and are now filled with everything from dinnerware to scarves – the trappings of family life with five children. For most of the year, this room is used as an office, but at Christmas the desks are replaced with a dining table and it becomes the setting for feasts with the extended family. Glass-panelled doors give a glimpse into the living room beyond, where a wood burner sits in front of the original fireplace. A scattering of cushions and rugs link the Chesterfield sofa and leather armchair.

Across the central hall, the couple removed the ceiling-height cupboard that divided the




11 Bathroom

The spacious bathroom was created by knocking two rooms together. For a similar bath, try the Oceanus, £4,794, Castello

'Our goal was to pare back the rooms, so the period features wouldn't fight with the rest of the décor'

kitchen and dining area. 'It made the room more spacious,' Miranda explains.

Upstairs was a similar story, as they knocked through two small rooms to create Eva and Isa's bedroom. A further two rooms at the back of the house were combined to create a luxurious bathroom with an oval bath as its centrepiece. 'I saw a photo of this bath in a magazine and I had to have it,' says Miranda, who admits her biggest indulgence is sinking into the bubbles and gazing at the sky through the Velux window.

'When we're restoring properties, Machiel and I work hard to find the heart of the house,' says Miranda. 'I'm really proud we've achieved that in our home, too. The fact that our family looks forward to gathering here to celebrate Christmas – and our anniversary – is a tribute to its warm and welcoming atmosphere.' 



12 Living room

A twig Christmas tree is modern, rustic and chic. For a similar tree, try the Woodland table top, £39, The Contemporary Home.



13 Hallway

Faux flowers and a quirky woolly reindeer give a warm welcome. For similar faux flowers, try the Pinar tulip bowl arrangement, £29, Bloom. For a similar reindeer, try the large reindeer with jumper, £10, The Contemporary Home.

DON'T MISS the details

Subtle decorations in wood, silver and gold work beautifully with the house's all-white scheme.



14 Dining room

Layering decorations in silver and white creates a luxe effect. For a similar glitter star, try the Christmas LED glitter, £10; for a similar stag, try the ring holder, £4.73; both Tesco Direct.



15 Dining room

Miranda wraps up mini boxes for an easy festive touch. For a similar ice bucket, try the silver double, £189, Brissi.

Get Miranda's look

Combine traditional wooden furniture with crisp white pieces for chic Scandi style

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



ASK MIRANDA

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME? 'We have five children and they often have friends to stay – sometimes there are eight or 10 kids in the house, but I can still find a quiet space to enjoy a coffee and read a magazine.'

■ DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS 'Mixed, design, art, classic, serene.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOMES BUY? 'The big pendant light in the living room; it goes well with the classic ceiling.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET? 'Less is better, with one or two big eye-catching pieces.'

■ WHAT ITEMS INSPIRED YOU? 'The huge candle holder in the dining room – I love beautiful things that have been made by hand.'

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS PEGGY JANSSEN PRODUCTION

DINING ROOM



Use accessories to add interest and colour in a white scheme



£27.99

Tall order

Dress it up with baubles
Bamboo ladder (H162cm x W45cm), Shabby Store



£950

Table talk

Fit all the family round it
Moore extending dining table (H75cm x W90cm x L180-240cm), Habitat



£342

Branch out

Include intricate decorative detailing
Forest armchair, Ambiente Direct

Go rustic
Decorate a sideboard
Wooden twig tree (H65cm x W30cm), The Contemporary Home



£39

Curve appeal
Just add festive foliage
Cashmere vase, LSA International

£45

Golden touch

Impress guests
Gold Band tableware, John Lewis

From £10





WHAT CATS EAT ISN'T
ALWAYS WHAT CATS NEED



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they need to support a strong immune
system and help maintain a shiny coat.

IAMS

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‘We’ve made it feel luxurious’

Build subtle layers of colour and texture to create a sumptuous look, as Christine and Gary Hayes have done

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



1 Living room

The couple added interest by fitting a fireplace and used natural colours and textures to provide depth. For a similar wallpaper, try Seta in Linen, £89 per roll, Designers Guild. Footstool, £650, The Blueberry Home. Christmas tree, £40, Newsholme Christmas Trees.

The big CHANGE

EXTENDING, TURNING A GARAGE INTO A DINING ROOM AND PART OF A SECOND GARAGE INTO A UTILITY ROOM, AND REDECORATING THROUGHOUT

Get the
LOOK
PAGE 76

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£119,000	£70,000	£325,000

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached house, near York, North Yorkshire, built in 2000. The owners bought it in December that year.

WHAT IT COST

Building work.....	£25,000
Kitchen.....	£14,500
Flooring.....	£5,000
Furniture and soft furnishings.....	£25,500
TOTAL.....	£70,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Christine and Gary Hayes, with their Weimaraner, Hector. Christine is a partner at a home-accessories and interior-design company and Gary owns a horticultural business.

THE LOOK

Modern elegance, with a white-and-grey palette and colourful accents.



LESSONS LEARNED

“Use subtly textured wallpaper and flooring to pull each room together and create a sense of luxury throughout your home.”

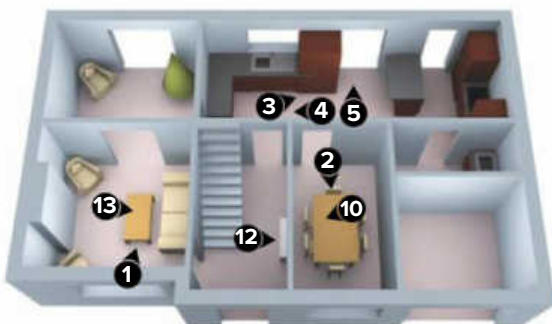


◀ FIRST FLOOR

The stairs lead up to a bathroom and four bedrooms, one of which is used as a study

GROUND FLOOR ▶

On the left of the hall is the living room, which connects to the snug at the back of the house. To the right is the dining room and kitchen, which leads to a utility room



BE
CANDLE
SAFE

2 Dining room

Christine had a table with a wooden base and zinc top made to fit the proportions of the dining room, which was once an integral garage Table, £1,150; rattan chairs, £140 each; clock, £220; all The Blueberry Home. Blind made in Samira Parme, £129 per m, Manuel Canovas



3 Kitchen

Building an extension doubled the size of the kitchen. Grey-painted units and an engineered-oak floor create a modern-country scheme

For similar bar stools, try the Edward, £485 each, Vincent Sheppard range, Kings



When Christine Hayes told friends that she and her husband Gary had bought an empty shell of a property, she wasn't exaggerating. Although the newly built house had a basic kitchen and bathroom, there were no fireplaces, no flooring and no other fittings. But that was perfect for Christine. 'I wanted to create a home just for us, so the fact that we didn't inherit someone else's ideas was a bonus,' she says. 'We were moving from a small, two-bedroom, semi-detached house into a place with lots of light and space, and plenty of scope for ideas, so I couldn't wait to get started.'

Christine and Gary wanted to introduce a modern, classic style that would stand the test of time. 'I love to use a grey-and-white palette for its overall feeling of sophistication, but I can't live without the odd pop of colour, too,' says Christine. 'I also wanted to bring in lots

of different textural layers with wool, linen and velvet, to create a sense of luxury.'

As the couple began to shape their new look, Christine realised that there was a fundamental flaw in the layout of the house that was going to be a hindrance to how they liked to live. 'I always felt that the upstairs space was disproportionate to the downstairs,' she says. 'The kitchen was quite small and we had a double garage that we didn't really need.'

The solution was to build a single-storey extension across the back of the house, removing a utility room in the process, to double the size of the kitchen. 'The kitchen was virtually a no-go area while the work was being done, so we set up a makeshift kitchen in the living room and managed like that until the new fittings were installed,' says Christine.

Next, they turned one of the garages into a dining room and used part of the remaining garage to create a new utility space. Roof lights were installed in the extension to let more ➔

4 Kitchen

Patterned wall tiles make an interesting splashback. Christine used the grey of the units as a starting point for the colour scheme in the snug to ensure the rooms blend together

For similar tiles, try Patisserie, £74.70 per m, Fired Earth

5 Kitchen

An eye-catching striped blind adds a splash of colour to the pared-back grey-and-white scheme

Blind made in Chateau Bellevue, £95 per m, Manuel Canovas



‘I love shopping and can happily spend all day browsing the shops for beautiful objects. I love the way fabric, accessories or a splash of colour can change the look and feel of a room’





light into the cooking area, and double doors now lead out to the walled garden at the back of the house. 'The extension and conversions have almost doubled the size of the downstairs living space and made the house more balanced,' says Christine. 'A lot of people these days like to have an open-plan dining room and kitchen, but we were keen to have a formal dining room, so we had somewhere really comfortable and cosy to sit when we are entertaining friends and family, away from the cooking smells and paraphernalia of the kitchen.'

Christine's great talent is in creating a cohesive look throughout her entire home. The colour scheme of sophisticated, soothing neutrals looks all the more luxurious with her choice of rich but subtle accent shades, including deep burgundy, pink and green, enhancing each room.

In the living room, plenty of cushions, bold fabric designs and layers of textiles create an intimate space that comes into its own

on cold winter nights. Christine felt a focal point here was essential. 'If there is no central feature in a room, it can be very difficult to arrange the furniture,' she says. 'I think living rooms are much cosier with a proper fireplace and we didn't skimp on ours as we wanted it to be a key piece.' They chose an Elgin & Hall design for its warm tones and simplicity. 'We took those simplistic elements through the whole house so that the rooms would flow seamlessly, even though they all have different identities,' says Christine.

The couple gradually replaced all the furniture that they had brought from their previous house, with sofas, beds, lamps and tables more suited to the size of their new home. 'We bought things as and when we could afford them, until we had finally upgraded everything,' says Christine.

The décor is an ongoing process and Christine loves to introduce fresh trends from time to time. 'Right now, I have my eye on ➔

6 **Main bedroom**

'I like layers of neutral tones because they are a timeless backdrop,' says Christine. She used the same lilac plaid on the headboard and the curtains for a co-ordinated finish
Headboard covered in Manuel Canovas Shetland, £450, The Blueberry Home

7 **Guest bedroom**

Striped wallpaper and fitted furniture give this room a hotel feel
Spalding Stripe wallpaper, £51 per roll, Ralph Lauren range, Designers Guild. Custom-made furniture, £3,500, Hammonds. Side table, £65, The Blueberry Home



3 of the best STATEMENT LIGHTS



Clear winner

An elegant pairing of a glass base and pale cream shade
Conti table lamp, Aflair For Home



Bargain beauty

Chic metallic accents at a great price
Austin stack ball lamp, Heart of House range, Argos



Fine filigree

The intricate detail adds subtle interest to a scheme
Hand beaten metal lamp with shade, Next

‘It’s all about attention to detail. I think it’s important to surround yourself with things that reflect who you are’





8 **Guest bedroom**

Christine has mixed different patterns in the same colour palette

Headboard, £550; footstool, £180; both The Blueberry Home. For a similar throw, try the Kelso in aqua, £49.50, Shimu. Cushions, from £40 each, Clarke & Clarke

9 **Bathroom**

Neutral, large-format wall and floor tiles create a spa-style effect

For similar wall and floor tiles, try the Caspari, £72.53 per m, Topps Tiles. For a similar basin, try the Euro Mono, £99, Bathstore

‘We used simple elements throughout, so the rooms flow seamlessly, even though they all have different identities’

a couple of new designer wallpapers that might find their way in soon,’ she says. ‘I absolutely love shopping and would happily spend all day, every day, browsing the shops for beautiful objects. I love the way fabric, accessories or a splash of colour can completely change the look and feel of a whole room.’

This interest in evolving style is probably why Christine loves Christmas so much. She buys new baubles and decorations for the tree each year, and stocks up on scented candles and diffusers to make each room smell inviting. ‘It’s all about the attention to detail,’ she says. ‘Last year, I bought some wonderful dragonfly napkin rings for the dining table and everyone commented on them. When you live in a house and use it every day, I think it’s important that you surround yourself with things that reflect who you are. There’s no better feeling than coming home at the end of the day.’

10 Dining room

A mix of textures, from crochet to crystal, give the table a luxurious feel
Place mat, £10, Juliska.
Delamere Rural plate, £9.25, Spode range, John Lewis.
Napkin ring, £17 for four, The Blueberry Home

**11 Main bedroom**

Vintage bottles collected from antiques markets make a pretty display in the dressing area
Console table, £375; mirror, £150; both The Blueberry Home



DON'T MISS
the details

Hand-picked tableware and accessories bring a touch of country charm to the house's neutral décor

12 Hallway

Christine likes to arrange objects in groups of three or five, as it looks more pleasing to the eye
Candle holder houses, £10 each, The Blueberry Home

**13 Living room**

Metallic finishes lift the neutral tones used throughout the house
For a similar teapot, try the Sunehra, £120, Nimerology range, Amara



Get Christine's look

Team classic pieces of furniture with pretty accessories

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

IDEAL



Glow getter

Stand this white fabric lantern by the fireside
Tahiti lantern (H33.5cm), Idyll Home

£39

Soft option
Perk up a neutral sofa with a floral print
Embroidered cushion, Marks & Spencer



£35



French flavour

Create a chic focal point
Mirano trumeau mirror (H160cm x W106cm), Maisons du Monde

£249

Light fantastic

Brighten up a dark corner with this smart lamp
New York floor lamp (H132cm), Marks & Spencer

£229



£850

Plain and simple

This timeless design is a winner
Eleanor three drawer chest (H86cm x W90cm x D45cm), Laura Ashley



£945

Smart choice

Go for a neutral, tailored sofa in an elegant living room
Balfour sofa in Stone (H87cm x W188cm x D89cm), Within

GREAT DEAL



Mirror image

A similar design, just smaller
Vendee mirror (H120cm x W90cm), India Jane

£210

Weave the way
Cast a cosy evening glow
Basket lantern (H25.5cm), Marquis & Dawe

£16



£16

Wing it
Add pops of colour to a chair with this cushion
Hummingbird print cushion, Next

Neat neutral

This ball stack floor lamp is a brilliant budget buy
Bianco floor lamp (H156cm), Very

£99



£349

Period look

Antique styling at a great price
Camille chest of drawers (H85cm x W100cm x D45cm), Swoon Editions



£599

Recline in style

Opt for a linen-look fabric
Halston three seater sofa in Cream (H81cm x W185cm x D93cm), Made.com

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPH COLIN POOLE



*“ Best fire we’ve
ever bought,
it’s beautiful
to look at. ”*



*“ Everybody
who has seen my
Opti-myst® fire can’t
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it’s so convincing. ”*



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Be inspired by our **MOODBOARDS**

We use expert interior-design techniques to create our decorating looks. Each starts with a moodboard, like the ones here. Use one of these as a starting point for a stylish new scheme

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

FIND MORE
MOODBOARDS
ONLINE AT
[houseto
home.co.uk/
moodboards](http://housetohome.co.uk/moodboards)

PEACOCK BLUE

Go glam with indigo, teal and metallics

Feather Fan **wallpaper**, £72 per roll, Cole & Son. Plumas F6792 01 **fabric**, £115 per m, Osborne & Little. Snowflake **baubles**, £3.50 for four, Tesco Direct. Wengé plank **flooring**, £19.99 per sq m, Quick Step. Gold **branches**, from a selection, Norpar Barns. For similar **tealights**, try the Malika, £21 each, LSA International. Gold and black **tealight holder**, £15 for three, Debenhams

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 84

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 100

LUXE LIVING

Mix up different shimmering fabrics

Koto 110895 **wallpaper**, £75 per roll, Momentum Wallcoverings Volume 3 collection; Aurelia 130964 **fabric**, £92 per m, Leonidia Velvets collection; both Harlequin. Sisal Bouclé Braemere **flooring**, £38.14 per sq m, Alternative Flooring. Theon **cushion**, £55, Voyage Decoration range, John Lewis. For a similar **bowl**, try the vintage candle pot, £5, Next. Decorative **copper bowl**, £12.99, Dunelm. **Baubles**, from a selection, Dobbies and Tesco Direct



RUSTIC RETREAT

Use Scandi motifs for a cosy woodland feel

Perendale **carpet** in Ecru, £108 per sq m, Flock Living. **Cushion cover** made in Asuri Gypsum 7726/16; **border** in Asuri Henna 7726/47; both £47.50 per m, Romo. Snowflake **cushion cover**, £44 for two, Chalet Shop. Hessian **star**, £2, George. Wooden standing **tree**, £36.99 for three; wooden **snowflake**, £39.99 for three; wooden **tray**, £28 for two; all Retreat Home. Ceramic **tree stars**, 99p each; **owl**, £2.99; all Dunelm. **Stars** painted in, from top: Quarter-Paris Grey flat emulsion; Paris-Grey-Half flat emulsion; Paris Grey flat emulsion; all £41 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Glass pine-cone **bauble**, £3.99, Dobbies. Luxury Midwinter Forest **cracker**, £40 for six, Cox & Cox

Design your own moodboard

Cheat your way to a professional finish

1 Choose your base colour Whether it's flooring or a wall, the base colour will be the largest area of colour in your room, so place a generous sample of it onto your board. Including carpet samples will help you think about texture, too.

2 Add an accent tone A dramatic contrast or an accent just a few tones away from your base colour? Use your moodboard to play with options and layer it with swatches of fabric, scraps of wallpaper and paint colour charts.

3 Find the right accessories These will really set the tone in your room – go for ones that share an accent colour and stick to a single theme. Don't mix styles, or your finished scheme will look messy rather than effortlessly eclectic.

BURNISHED GOLD

Create warmth with this decadent hue

Oxidise Moonstone/Brass **wallpaper**, £99 per roll, Harlequin. Allegra Peacock **fabric**, £48 per m, Kai. **Cracker**, £40 for six; **gift tag**, £5.50 for 15; both Cox & Cox. Gold **feather stem**, £4; Mirror **side plate**, £12; both John Lewis. European oak **flooring**, from £25 per sq m, UK Flooring Direct. Midas **cutlery**, £20 for a 16 piece set, George. **Bauble**, from £2.50, Rockett St George

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 86

TURN OVER FOR MORE ▶

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 83

POLISHED COPPER

Add a modern spin with cool metal accents

Background painted in Marine Blue Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Wengé plank **flooring**, £19.99 per sq m, Eligna collection, Quick Step. Wire **bauble**, £2.50; **diary** with pen, £7; both Next. Copper **letter rack**, £10, George. Peacock feather **wreath**, £49.95, Gisela Graham. **Christmas cards**, from a selection, Paperchase



SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 96



WINTER WHITE

Get a magical look with frosty white and silver

UF1235 **flooring**, £27.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. W378/01 **wallpaper**, £50 per roll; **cushion cover** made in 7738/03, £75 per m; both Romo. **Rug**, £115, Graham and Green. **Place mat**, £17 for four; **plate**, £9.50; both Denby. **Plate**, £5; **snowflake**, £6; both Marks & Spencer. Silver **giftwrap**, £2.50 for 3m; **ribbon**, £1 for 20m; both Paperchase. **Bird**, £1.99, Liberty Bee. **Snowflake**, £8 for 12, House of Fraser. **Cracker**, £24 for six, Debenhams. **Votive**, £10.99, Retreat Home. Star **giftwrap**, £4 for 2m, BHS. Star **scatter**, £2.75 for 25g, Talking Tables

Decorating?

FOLLOW THE 3 GOLDEN RULES

1 THE 70-20-10 RULE For a balanced scheme, keep 70% of the elements (say, walls and floors) as one colour, then add 20% in a second colour (fabrics) and 10% in an accent (accessories).

2 THE PATTERN RULE When mixing patterns, use large with medium or medium with small, never large with small. Pick prints that share a colour in common.

3 THE PAINTED BOX RULE The look of paint changes according to the time of day and the light in a room. Paint the inside of a large box with a tester to create a miniature 'room' and see how the colour changes during the day within a 3D space.

♥ AND FINALLY... Always add a surprise. A focal point – whether it's a feature wall or a piece of art – is the short cut to a 'wow' room.

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 88



SPARKLING SAPPHIRE

Layer sequins and sparkles for easy glamour

Estella **wallpaper**, £85 per roll, Osborne & Little. Sisal Boucle **flooring**, £36 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. Sequin **cushion** (left), £14, Next. **Bag** made in Allegra Peacock, £48 per m, Kai. Aquilla **cushion cover** (top right), £42.50; Theago Sapphire **fabric**, £54 per m; both Voyage Decoration. **Bauble**, £5 for 20, Tesco Direct. Truffle **box**, £5.50, Charbonnel et Walker. **Ribbons**; **giftwrap**; all from a selection, Paperchase

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Add easy impact with a row of identical wreaths propped on a shelf, rail or mantel, and statement decs, such as giant paper bells casually arranged to fill an empty corner

TO SEE OUR
MOODBOARD
TURN TO
PAGE 80

Puttin' on the Ritz

The gifts are wrapped, the Champagne chilled and the guests invited. It's time to get your glam on...

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO PAGE 90

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Peacock Blue



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 78



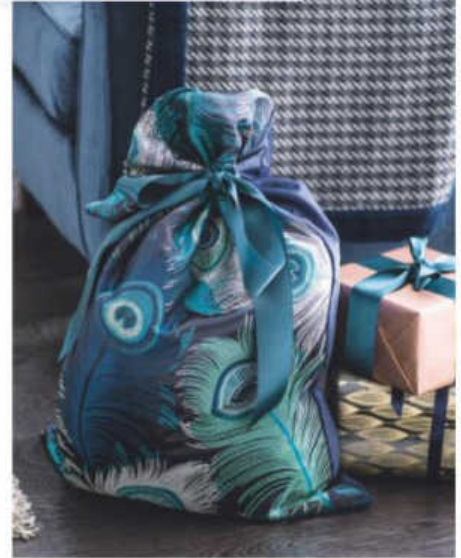
BE
CANDLE
SAFE

Create a luxe look with
Deco-inspired wallpaper,
velvet upholstery and
opulent finishes in walnut
and gold, then bring it
to life at Christmas with
shimmering accents



DON'T MISS *the details*

PERSONALISED SACK



If you're handy with a sewing machine (or instant hemming tape), swap shop-bought stockings for chic gift sacks made from remnants of luxe fabrics to add a personal touch to present-giving year after year.

THEMED WRAPPING



Take a cue from your Christmas decorating look and follow the colour theme through on giftwrap and ribbon, so the display of presents under your tree actually becomes a beautiful part of your living-room scheme.

DON'T MISS the details

HOSTESS TROLLEY



The hostess trolley has made a comeback for true *Abigail's Party* style. It's an easy way to serve cocktails or the soup course in one go, saving you multiple trips to and from the stove or fridge. Luxe drinks trolley, £350, Oliver Bonas.

METALLIC THEME



Choose a metal for your Christmas decorating theme and keep it consistent through your table setting, from candlesticks and cutlery to glassware and crackers, for a joined-up and ultra-glamorous look for dining.

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD *Burnished Gold*



For details of this moodboard, turn to page 78



A burnished-metal-effect wallpaper creates a 'wow' backdrop for a dinner party and pairs easily with dramatic colour accents, such as petrol blue, purple or rich red



Give a bedroom all-year glamour with a striking, shimmering pendant, sequinned cushions and a feature wall of paper subtly encrusted with sparkling spangles



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Sparkling Sapphire



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 78



Create a tabletop or hearth display by grouping lanterns, circling them with a string of lights and scattering decs around them

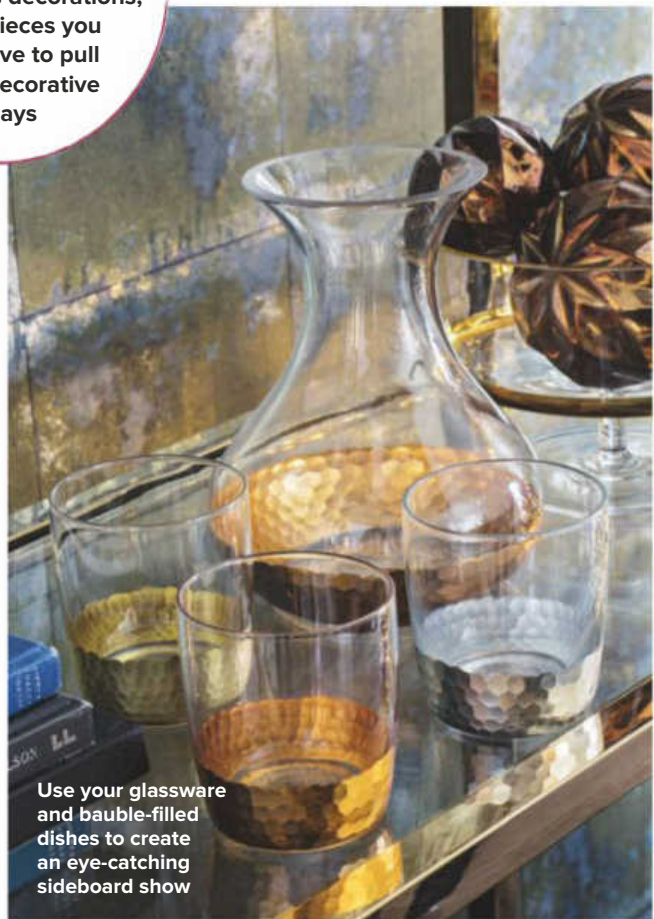


Press your cake stand into service to hold party favours or chocolates, trimmed with decorations and tealights

**TRY A
5-MINUTE
decorating trick**
Use Christmas decorations,
gifts and pieces you
already have to pull
together decorative
displays



Serve up stocking fillers in fabric bags on an ornament-bedecked tray alongside breakfast in bed on Christmas Day



Use your glassware and bauble-filled dishes to create an eye-catching sideboard show

Find all the details IN THESE PICTURES

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



p83 HALLWAY DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Marine Blue Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Wengé plank flooring, £19.99 per sq m, Eligna collection, Quick-Step. **Runner** made in Wool Indulgent Pewter; **border** in Worn Leather Evergreen, £692; both Crucial Trading. Mervyn **console table** in Rose Gold (H78cm x W150cm x

D45cm), £585, Barker & Stonehouse. **ON WALL** Peacock **wreaths**, £49.95 each, Gisela Graham. Gaby decorative gold **mirror**, £180, Out There Interiors. **ON CONSOLE** Santerno **lamp base**, £99, Oka. Dara black and gold printed **shade**, £75, Biba range, House of Fraser. 746 **telephone** in Brushed Brass, £64.95, Wild & Wolf. Wire **copper bauble**, £2.50; slim **diary** with pen,

£7; both Next. Copper **letter rack**, £10, George. Stanley panther **statue**, £50, John Lewis. **Christmas card**, from a selection, Paperchase. Copper **lanterns**, from £14.99 each, Dobbies. Party Porcelain gold table **lights**, £10; Decadent Decs honeycomb **baubles**, £30 each; all Talking Tables. Lit glass **globe**, £20, Next. Midnight **tote bag**, £90, Helen Moore



p84 LIVING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Feather Fan **wallpaper**, £72 per roll, Frontier collection, Cole & Son. Wengé plank flooring, £19.99 per sq m, Eligna collection, Quick-Step. Gåser **rug** (133cm x 195cm), £80, Ikea. Manhattan large **sofa** in Osborne & Little Facade FAC212, £3,079; Manhattan **armchairs** in Osborne & Little Facade FAC213, £1,769 each; all Multiyork. Puccini four-door **cabinet**, £1,999, John

Lewis. Hex **coffee table**, £199, Next. Chevron **side table** (beside sofa), £135, Graham and Green. Round Glossy **side table**, £445, Out There Interiors. Classic Victorian **fire surround**, £810; Fibonacci **fire basket**, £450; both Chesney's. 7.5ft Vermont White Spruce lit **tree**, £699, Balsam Hill. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Cake stand, £78, Oliver Bonas. **Giftwrap; ribbon**; all from a selection, Paperchase. **Copper giftwrap**, £12.50 per roll, Cox & Cox. Sequin **peacock**, £6.50, Norpar Barns. **Flocked baubles**, £5 for six, Debenhams. **Christmas baubles**, £5 for 20, Tesco Direct. Jingle Bell **light garland**, £12.95, Rastall & Daughters. Antique Gold **hurricane** (used as a vase), £19, Nordic House. **Backgammon**, £14.95, Ridley's Games Room range, Wild & Wolf. **ON/NEAR FIRE SURROUND** Round **mirror** with geometric border, £120,

BHS. Gold **branches**, from a selection, Norpar Barns. Gold Twist **candlesticks**, £34 each, Oliver Bonas. Dip-dyed **candles**, £12.95 for four, MiaFleur. Antique gold **hurricanes**, £14 each, Nordic House. Metal **tealight holders**, £4.99 each, H&M. Christmas **baubles**; Jingle Bell **light garland**; all as before. Leaf **garland**, £5, George. **ON SOFA** Cushions, from left: Glorious Velvet in Moroccan Blue, £29, Rockett St George; made in Plumage F6792-01, £115 per m, Cubana collection, Matthew Williamson range, Osborne & Little; Aquilla gilt sequinned, £45, Barker & Stonehouse. **ON SIDE TABLE** (beside sofa) Copper **Champagne bucket**, £38; Mixed Metals **pot**, £45 for three; Mixed Metallic **Champagne glass**, £29 for four; all Oliver Bonas. Silver and gold **feathers**, £5 each, Marks & Spencer. Black damask **tealight**, £15 for three,

Debenhams. **ON CABINET** Marlee table **lamp**, £35, Very. **Jewellery box**, £60, John Lewis. Geometric **candle holder**, £22, Rockett St George. Sapphire **vase**, £48, MiaFleur. Brass bamboo **photo frame**, £125, Oka. **ON SIDE TABLE Champagne glass; copper giftwrap; ribbon**; all as before. **ON/NEAR CHAIRS** Aquilla cushions, as before. Shelbourne **throw**, £99, Oka. **Sack** made in Plumage F6792-01 (front), as before; made in Allegra Navy, £48 per m, Kai. **Giftwrap; ribbon**; all as before. **Teal ribbon**, from a selection, Paperchase. **ON TREE Topper; baubles**; all from a selection, Gisela Graham and Tesco Direct. Sequined **onions**, £6 each, Marks & Spencer. Glass and peacock feather **finials**, £4 each, John Lewis. **Peacock baubles**, £4.99 each, Norpar Barns. **Peacock crackle baubles**, £19 for four, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen range, Very



p86 DINING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Oxidise Moonstone/Brass **wallpaper**, £99 per roll, Harlequin. Engineered European oak flooring in Espresso Piccolo, from £25 per sq m, Home Choice range,

UK Flooring Direct. Omega **dining table**, £3,020, Natuzzi. Preben **chairs**, £80 each, Ikea; covered in Allegra Peacock, £48 per m, Kai. Mervyn **cabinet**, £1,735, Barker & Stonehouse. 7ft Canadian Blue Green Spruce lit **tree**, £279, Balsam Hill. **ON/NEAR TABLE** Embellished **cushion**, £20, Next. **Runner** made in Allegra Navy, £48 per m, Kai. Lacquer **place mats**, £35 for six; Mirror **dinner plates**, £16 each; Mirror **side plates**, £12 each; Chalfont linen **napkins**, £20 for four; Poshe **green vase**, £30; all John Lewis. Midas **cutlery**, £20 for a 16-piece set, George. Luxury copper **crackers**, £40 for six, Cox & Cox. Square copper **candle holders**,

£9.95 each, MiaFleur. **Candlesticks**, £18 each, Casa Couture range, House of Fraser. Edge **Champagne flutes** in Rose Gold; Edge red **wine glasses** in Rose Gold; all £40 for two, LSA International. **ON CABINET** (from bottom left, clockwise) Hammered-gold **tray**, £28, Oliver Bonas. **Bags** made in Allegra Peacock, as before. Satin **ribbon**, £1.75 per roll, Paperchase. Metal **tealight holder**, £4.99, H&M. Copper **bowl**, £10, Oliver Bonas. Black **geometric vase**, £12, Rockett St George. Gold feather **stem**, £4, John Lewis. Picture **frame**, £17.99, Zara Home. Marble-effect **jewellery box**, £12, George. Stoneware **pot**, £12,

Rockett St George. **Copper vase**, £59, Out There Interiors. Malika Grand **wine goblets**, £42 for two, LSA International. Metal **tealight holder**, as before. Plum **ice bucket**, £200, Tom Dixon range, John Lewis. Gold **bowl**, £20, Oliver Bonas. Edge **compot** in Rose Gold, £65, LSA International. Copper **baubles**, £3.50 each, Rockett St George. **Carafe** (just seen), £26; Mixed Metallic **tumblers**, £24 for four; all Oliver Bonas. Nordic **tree in dome**, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. **ON TREE Decorations**, from a selection, Cox & Cox, Rockett St George, Tesco Direct. **ON FLOOR Giftwrap; ribbon**; all from a selection; Paperchase. **Copper giftwrap**, £12.50 per roll, Cox & Cox



p88 BEDROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Estella **wallpaper**, £85 per roll, Osborne & Little. Sisal Bouclé Artist Monet **carpet**, £36 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. Louis super-king **bedstead** in Warwick Mystic Peacock, £1,399; Henrietta **blanket box** in house fabric, £749; both Feather & Black. Alexia **bedside table**, £175, John Lewis. Betty **armchair** in Deep Turquoise velvet, £460, Sofa.com.

Clear Pearl **pendant**, £300, BHS. **ON TABLE** Angular **tealight holder**, £14.95, Graham and Green. Octagon **perfume bottle**, £25, John Lewis. For a similar **candle**, try the Marakesh, £20, House of Fraser. Courtney **lamp**, £95, John Lewis. **Alarm clock**, £45, Cox & Cox. **ON BED** Embroidered-edge **duvet set**, £30, Tesco Direct. Faux-mohair **throw**, £44, Oka. **Sparkly throw** made in Theague Sapphire fabric, £54 per m, Voyage Decoration.

Cushions, from left: Aquilla, £42.50 each, Voyage Decoration; made in Allegra Navy, £48 per m, Kai; Charcoal Circle embellished, £16, Next. **ON/NEAR OTTOMAN** Hot water **bottle**, £58, Helen Moore. **Giftwrap; ribbon**; both from a selection, Paperchase. Truffle **box**, £5.50, Charbonnel et Walker. Gold **tray**, £28, Oliver Bonas. **Bags** made in Allegra Peacock, £48 per m, Kai. **Ribbon**, as before. **Baubles**, £5 for 20, Tesco Direct

CHRISTMAS DELIVERED

**Midas touch**

Add opulence with gold
Wreath, £19.99; stag head
vase, £49.99; twigs, £8.99
each; stags, £24.99 each;
hurricane lantern, £12.99;
pine-cone lantern, £8.99;
tealight holders on tray,
£16.99; all Dobbies

Make your Christmas TRULY MAGICAL

From stunning decorations to gorgeous gifts, find everything you need this festive season at Dobbies

Transforming your home for Christmas couldn't be simpler with Dobbies' beautiful selection of home accessories and decorations. Whether you are shopping for a loved one or dressing your home, its unique and striking range will help you deliver a memorable and stylish Christmas. Plus, with everything available under one roof, you can bring your home to life and enjoy a stress-free shopping experience.

Deck the halls

From stringing up fairy lights to hanging the first bauble on the tree, there's a special sense of ceremony to dressing up your

home for Christmas. Dobbies' new Copper Woodland range, in a rich palette of luxurious gold and contemporary copper, is the perfect way to put a modern spin on a traditional rustic scheme. Choose from stylish baubles, forest-themed tealight holders and contemporary lanterns for a magical woodland feel.

Pick the perfect present

The on-trend Copper Woodland collection is also full of brilliant gift ideas. Choose from antique-style golden hurricanes, shimmering tealight holders and majestic stag ornaments to give friends and family a present they'll enjoy long after Christmas.

**Hang on**

Mix and match for a contemporary feel
Baubles, £3.99 each, Dobbies

COPPER WOODLAND

Give rustic style a luxe twist with metallics

**Stag do**

Let this stylish ornament add an elegant touch
Copper deer head, Dobbies

£7.99

Burning bright

Choose rose gold accents for a modern look
Rose gold tealight holder, Dobbies

£9.99

**Branch out**

Arrange by the hearth to create a forest feel
Metallic tree lantern, Dobbies

£4.99

For more information...

FOR MORE IDEAS AND INSPIRATION, VISIT DOBBIES.COM/CHRISTMAS



Dobbies
GARDEN CENTRES

Brighten your day

PICK THE Perfect pattern

Need inspiration? Check out the best of this season's fabrics and wallpapers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Fall for faux brick and stone

WHY WE LOVE THEM If you're after the look and feel of naturally textured finishes, such as marble, plaster, brick or cement, but can't work with the real thing, then faux finishes in wallpapers and fabrics are for you. Thanks to the latest 3D effects and high-definition digital printing techniques, you can achieve the illusion of stone or brick instantly.

WHERE TO USE THEM In a living room or dining room, concrete-, plaster- or brick-effect wallpaper and modern streamlined furniture will give an urban, industrial vibe. The unfinished appearance also works well in a kitchen, creating a rustic look when teamed with

wooden units. In the bedroom, bold-coloured marble patterns can add an opulent feel.

HOW TO USE THEM

Highlight a feature wall with brick-effect wallpaper on a chimney breast or use authentic-looking replicas for marble tiles in a bathroom. Cushions and bed linen in marble-effect fabric are a subtle way to embrace the trend.

HOW TO ACCESSORISE THEM

Add warmth with rich colours and decorative items in organic shapes. Light fittings in gold and copper, textured fabrics including velvet, and natural materials, such as stripped wood, will soften any hardness associated with stone.

3 places to buy FAUX BRICK AND STONE WALLPAPERS

Osborne & Little
The Onyx collection features natural textured surfaces, stones and minerals, and includes the chic Travertino, £59 per roll.

Lewis & Wood Inspired by the marbled papers that line the inside of old volumes, Marble, £74.88 per roll, comes in four bold colours.

Your4walls Has more than 50 brick-effect designs, including the embossed Brick Red, £9.97 per roll.



CEMENT FINISH
Go for a cutting-edge look with unfinished concrete
Concrete Patina R12271,
£33 per sq m, Rebel Walls

URBAN CHIC
Exposed brick works well in a modern setting, adding an industrial feel
Rustic Brick, £10.99 per roll, Arthouse

'Rough-look surfaces, such as brick or plaster, add interest to walls and create an urban feel in modern interiors'

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor

TOP 10 Wallpapers

Set in stone

Find your ideal surface with designs that look like the real thing

1

La dolce vita

Inspired by the look of an Italian palazzo

Botticino in Thistle, £79 per roll, Sukumala collection, Designers Guild range, Amara

2

Plastered print

Use this blown vinyl to add an unfinished plaster effect to a room

11072406, £25.95 per roll, Textstyle 4 collection, Galerie

3

Semi precious

Features the hypnotic ripples of malachite

Malachite 77/7025, £76 per roll, Fornasetti collection, Cole & Son

4

Urban touch

Keep it contemporary with a concrete look

Aggregate Concrete Effect, £69.99 per roll, Your4walls

5

Country flavour

Create a rustic feel with this dry-stone wall pattern

Moroccan Wall 623000, £6.98 per roll, VIP Eclectic collection, Arthouse

More over the page...



▲ MARBLE MARVEL

Imitation marble can look incredibly realistic

Marble 420081, £38.95 per roll, Wallpaper From The 70s

▼ SUBTLE CHOICE

Add a hint of faux stone to a bedroom with this elegant printed cushion

Marble cushion, £47, Bloomingville range, Amara

IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on marbled fabrics

£99.50
per m

OPULENT STYLE
The textured velvet finish enhances the marble effect

Marble Hill
9 7680 020,
JAB Anstoetz



£34.99
per m

NATURAL FINISH
A soft Jacquard with textured highlights

Marble 1478/031
in Linen, Cosmopolitan
collection,
Prestigious Textiles



THE TOP 10 WALLPAPERS
...continued

‘Faux stone
wallpapers are the
ideal way to replicate
the look and feel of
the real thing’

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor

6

Fade to grey

Create the illusion
of natural slate with
this 3D-effect paper

Large Slate Charcoal,
£14.97 per roll, Muriva
collection, Wilko

7

Timeless style

Turn walls into stone
blocks for a classic feel

Stone Block Vintage
330900, £85 per roll,
Eijffinger collection,
Wallpaperdirect

8

Brick it up

Use this classic image
on a feature wall such
as a chimney breast

Brick effect in red,
£13 per roll, B&Q

9

Rough edges

The layered crackle
finish is reminiscent of
distressed plasterwork

Oratorio 6006 06, £59
per roll, Onyx collection,
Osborne & Little

10

Copper tones

Textured vinyl with
a narrow brick design

Brick 475104, £26.99 per
roll, Natural Textures
collection, Albany range,
Wallpaperdirect



Curtains in Kew Olive; chair
covered in Rosemore Olive;
both £31 per m, Tamed
Spirit collection, Olivia Bard

WHAT'S NEW AT

Olivia Bard

This newly established fabric house
offers a collection inspired by nature

THE COMPANY New British textile company Olivia Bard produces diverse, beautifully crafted fabrics and decorative window dressings, inspired by designer Olivia's travels and love of the English countryside. Artisan hand-crafted details, such as hand-block printing and cut embroidery, as well as digital prints, are all part of the brand's signature look.

THE NEW COLLECTION Taking inspiration from the natural world, Tamed Spirit captures the beauty of organic forms in soft watercolour prints, intricate woven textures and

vibrant floral motifs. With a palette reflecting the colours found in nature, the collection pairs rich, earthy tones with accents of chartreuse, coral and powder blue for a modern take on botanical patterns and themes.

WHY WE LOVE IT Each fabric is created using techniques such as digital printing, herringbone weaves and hand-drawn designs, and is woven in a choice of yarns, including richly textured cotton and linen blends. These elegant fabrics can be used on a variety of soft furnishings, allowing you to bring gorgeous winter florals into your home.

Kew Coral (top);
Tatton Olive; both £31
per m, Tamed Spirit
collection, Olivia Bard

FEATURE KAREN BRAY PHOTOGRAPHS RHAPSODY MEDIA



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COLOUR SCHOOL

Winter white

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FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Icy white is a *timeless shade* that can hold its own as a base colour for a stylish celebration. Combine *crisp white linens* with frosted and mercurised glass and *traditional furniture* for an elegant feel. Soften the overall look by using a *pearlised wallpaper* as a backdrop and adding cosy texture in off-white tones. Paper globes, *feather-filled baubles* and glittering tree decorations will add a hit of contemporary style

Sparkling silver

The mercurised glass

adds a vintage feel
Mercury silver glass
candle and cloche dome,
£9.95, The Farthing



Looking glass

Reflect flickering

candlelight
Beaded arch
wall mirror in ivory,
£69.99, Heart of
House range, Argos



Top table

Add some glitz
Beaded place mat,
£10, Star by Julien
Macdonald range,
Debenhams



Snow white

Go for distressed

painted storage
Stanley chest of
drawers, £938,
One World
Trading Co



Sleek seat

Choose smart

dining furniture
Tod real leather
dining chair in
white, £129, Danetti



First frost

Use year

after year
White sparkly
wreath,
£40, The
Contemporary
Home



An eye-catching
display of large,
confetti-filled
balloons creates
a party atmosphere



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Winter White



For details of this moodboard, turn to page 78



THE PALETTE

Create calm with cool off-white tones

LIGHT SHIMMER

Use on a feature wall

LUXE LOOK Make it elegant with a pale grey

FRESH SNOW Go for a softer look with an off-white shade in a chalky finish

Sophistication
Metallic
Emulsion, £18.49
for 1.25ltr,
Crown Paints

Quartz Flint 4
Paint Mixing Matt
Emulsion, £24.49
for 2.5ltr, Dulux

Fan Coral
matt emulsion,
£35.50
for 2.5ltr,
Fired Earth

See all the details & more ways with winter white over the page

More ways with winter white

Try it with... MID GREY

Make a snowy all-white Christmas theme feel more inviting with warm grey walls and plush silver textiles

Soften up
Glam, yet cosy
Curzon velvet
in silver/grey,
£99 per m,
Zoffany collection,
Fabrics & Papers

Grey days

A warm neutral
Urbane Grey
Absolute Matt
Emulsion, £37
for 2.5ltr, Little
Greene

Don't fret

Add shimmer
with this paper
Portico wallpaper
in Ash, £61.50
per roll, Fougere
range, Romo

Eau-de-nil
walls create
a tranquil
backdrop



Team a metallic
wallpaper with
grey fabrics for an
opulent scheme

Classic style

Cheat the look of parquet
Hazar maple wood effect
floor tile, £15 per sq m,
Tile Mountain

Cool linen

Perfect for blinds
Bacall Eau De Nil,
£26 per m,
Laura Ashley

Light hue

Try a soft green
Pale Powder
Estate Emulsion,
£38 for 2.5ltr,
Farrow & Ball

Try it with...

EAU DE NIL

Give white-painted furniture a calm setting by painting walls in a green-toned grey. Pale wood-effect floor tiles will add a modern, Scandi-style vibe

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Xilia Nickel W378/01 **wallpaper**, £50 per roll, Romo. White brushed pine planks laminate **flooring**, £27.99 per sq m, Perspective collection, Quick-Step. Recycled-leather metallic **rug**, £115; embossed white metal **chest of drawers**, £750; bevelled-edge **mirror**, £145; all Graham and Green. Greenwich oval **dining table**, £1,099; Greenwich padded **dining chairs**, £499 for two; all Marks & Spencer. Pre-lit flocked 6ft Whistler Christmas **tree**, £230, Linea range, House of Fraser. **ON TABLE** Linen hemstitch **tablecloth**, £115, The Linen Works. Filigree Silver round **coasters**, £9 for four; Filigree Silver **place mats**, £17 for four; Filigree Silver **salad plates**, £9.50 each; Filigree White **wine glasses**, £18 for two; all Monsoon range; Linear **cutlery**, £100 for a 24-piece set; all Denby. Madison **dinner plates**, £5 each; glass **cake stand**, £39.50; all Marks & Spencer. Recycled silver kraft **giftwrap**, £2.50 for 3m;

ribbon, from a selection; both Paperchase. Ceramic **bird decorations**, £1.99 each, Liberty Bee. Luxury **crackers**, £20 for 12, Debenhams. Snowflake **tealight holders**, £6.50 for two, Retreat Home. Christmas **cake**, from a selection, Tesco. Snowdrift acrylic **reindeer decoration**, £4, John Lewis. Simply Silver **star scatter**, £2.75 for 25g; Party Time white **table lights**, £9.50 for 3m; all Talking Tables. Opaque and Confetti Bubble **balloons**, from £29.95 each, Bubblegum Balloons. **ON CHAIRS** Cushions made in 7738/03 Merletto, £75 per m, Romo. Beaded **snowflakes**, £5 each, Marks & Spencer. **Ribbon**, as before. **ON CHEST OF DRAWERS** Christmas tree **glass jars**, from £22.50 each, Parlane International. Glass **star votive**, £10.99, Retreat Home. Champagne **bucket**, £25, House range, John Lewis. Filigree **Champagne flutes**, £18 for two, Monsoon range, Denby. Linen hemstitch **napkin**, £11.50, The Linen Works. Carlotta **vase**, £28, Brissi. For similar **silver**

branches, try Amazon.co.uk. **Snowflakes**, from a selection, House of Fraser. **ON/BENEATH TREE** Tree **topper**, from a selection; white glitter **birds**, £6 each; white pompom **baubles**, £12 for four; teardrop glass feather **baubles**, £8 each; all Linea range, House of Fraser. Silver **chandelier decorations**, £2.50 each; glitter **snowflake decorations**, £2.50 for three; silver **spirals**, £1 each; **icicles**, £2 for four; all Tesco. White sparkle **baubles**, £8.50 for six, Debenhams. Enchantment **baubles**, £6 for 20 in a mix of colours, John Lewis. White **paper decorations**, £9 for three, Retreat Home. Silver **glass snowflake**, £6, Marks & Spencer. **ON FLOOR** Honeycomb white **paper balls**, £6 for three, Talking Tables. Large Champagne glitter **reindeer**, £25, Linea range, House of Fraser. Silver glitter star **giftwrap**, £4 for 2m, BHS. Silver Kraft **boxes**, from £3.25 each, Paperchase. Recycled silver kraft **giftwrap**; **ribbon**; both as before

SWOON

EDITIONS

NEW DESIGNS DAILY • CRAFTSMAN-MADE • FREE DELIVERY & RETURNS



BERGEN £849

MADE-TO-ORDER

Available as a two- or three-seater, chaise-end corner sofa and ottoman,
choose from 18 designer fabrics and two of the finest hardwoods.
Shown here in Navy brushed linen-cotton and black birch.

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Christmas delivery applies only to designs in the Christmas Edit on orders placed before 11th December to UK mainland.
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Boutique HOTEL SPY

The Goring

We took a sneak peek into this gorgeous hotel to bring you luxe style inspiration anyone can steal

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

LOCATION Situated just behind Buckingham Palace in the heart of Belgravia, this English institution is the only five-star London hotel that's still owned by the family that built it in 1910. It is now run by Jeremy Goring, who is the fourth generation to take the helm.

ROOMS The hotel's 69 rooms are all sumptuously decorated and have names such as Delightful and Splendid. The hotel has five suites and each one is serviced by its own footman, who is at the guests' beck and call. The Royal suite (right), which interior designer Russell Sage created out of five bedrooms, has two bedrooms, two reception rooms and a balcony that runs the length of the top floor, with stunning views

of the city. Feeling more like a luxury apartment than a hotel suite, it has a traditional yet glamorous feel and features rewoven, historic silks by the renowned Gainsborough Silk Company, as well as a unique collection of British antiques.

FAMOUS FOR Its high level of luxury. Recognised as one of the world's finest hotels, The Goring was named Hotel of the Year in 2010 and also won the World's Best Service category. It also serves up beautifully cooked British food in The Dining Room – its Michelin-starred restaurant.

CELEBRITY GUESTS The Goring is too polite to mention any famous visitors it might have, but the Queen is said to use the lounge area each year for her staff's Christmas lunch.

Add glamour to a traditional scheme with rich textiles and elegant accessories



FACT FILE

HOTEL
The Goring
ADDRESS
Beeston Place,
London
SW1W 0JW

PRICE
From £345 per night
for a Delightful room;
£1,258 per night for
the Belgravia suite;
and from £8,400 per



night for
the Royal suite.

CONTACT
020 7396 9000;
thegoring.com

YOU CAN BUY THE LOOK...



Put your feet up
Recline in luxury style

Bluebell three-seater sofa in
Saffron Smart velvet (H91cm x
W216cm x D107cm), Sofa.com

£1,540



*Looking
glass*

Make a feature
of this chic mirror
Odette convex
mirror, Cox & Cox

£100



£1,499

Formal piece

An elegant way to
display books or
decorative items
Lille display cabinet
(H200cm x W110cm
x D45cm), Willis
& Gambier range,
John Lewis

£252

Go dark
Add interest
with curvy
accessories in
moody hues
Polka vase in
Platinum, LSA
International



£40

Smart choice

Opt for classic,
timeless prints
Ceres Houndstooth
cushion, Pillow
Collection range,
Wayfair



£40.99

Light touch
Include mood
lighting to create
atmosphere
Connoisseur table
lamp, Chelsom
range, Houseology





Use an upholstered footstool as a coffee table to create a cosy yet luxurious feel

IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever the budget

Silvery sheen

Also comes in 14 other colourways
Kashgar P619/04 wallpaper in Platinum, Alexandria collection, Designers Guild range, Amara



£58
per roll

Shine on

A shimmering background adds a contemporary twist to this design
Damask White Shimmer wallpaper, Graham & Brown



£12
per roll

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Luxe Living



LOVE THE LOOK

Mix classic patterned fabrics and plush textures in neutral shades with metallic accessories

For more moodboards turn to page 78

PROPERTY PROJECTS

Get the very best advice and inspiration for all your home renovation projects

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



REAL HOME IMPROVEMENT



'Rethinking the layout let us use every inch'

When they bought their three-bedroom Edwardian home in Surbiton, Surrey, Zoe and Jon Rourke decided they wanted to create a bit more room. On the wish list was a playing area for their three young children, space for grown ups to hang out and somewhere to entertain 20 people for dinner. With the help of architect Francesco Pierazzi (020 8623 9378; fparchitects.london), the couple decided to replace an old conservatory with a cedar-clad extension that has sliding glazed doors

leading outside. The newly extended ground floor now has a grown-ups-only living room at the front of the house, a playroom that doubles as a guest room in the middle of the house and a kitchen-diner with living area at the back. A dining table sits neatly in a recess and can be brought out for celebrations. 'We have lots of family space and the layout flows more smoothly,' says Zoe. 'The house couldn't be any better for us now.'

FIND OUT MORE...

■ Architect Francesco Pierazzi sourced red cedar cladding for the extension's exterior. The boards are the same height as the bricks on the rest of the house to create a seamless

look, with grooves between each board mimicking the pointing between bricks.

■ The boards cost from £4.74 per linear m (0121 772 5511; vincenttimber.co.uk).



Honeywood casement window, from £307, Anglian

SOURCEBOOK Thermal windows

Don't know where to start? Try these top-five places...

ANGLIAN 0800 954 1203; anglianhome.co.uk

The low-iron glass in its A+-rated windows has increased transparency to let in more sunlight. A double casement window with A+ rating costs £573 including fitting, based on a whole house order.

EVEREST 0800 915 9427;

everest.co.uk All its uPVC windows are A+ rated. The high-tech design keeps heat in, and double draft-resistant seals improve thermal performance. Windows are made to measure, with free quotes online.

PILKINGTON pilkington.com

Its energiKare double- and triple-glazing range improves the thermal efficiency of homes by reducing heat loss. Find a local supplier via the website for quotes.

THE TRADITIONAL WINDOW COMPANY 01753 696900; the

traditionalwindowcompany.com

It offers replacement timber period windows, with energy-efficient and triple-glazed versions. Casement windows (120cm sq) cost £1,375 including fitting, while sash windows (100cm x 180cm) cost £1,750.

VELUX 01592 778225; velux.co.uk

Triple-glazed energy-efficient roof lights (66cm x 118cm) cost £504, excluding VAT and fitting. New Passive House-certified roof lights with triple outer and double inner glazing, solar power and a touch-screen control pad cost from £990.



Lumin8 Inswing shower enclosure, from £755, Roman

TOP TREND

Space-saving showers

The hectic pace of modern life means that we shower far more than we soak, with the average Briton taking 227 showers each year, according to LateRooms. But old habits die hard, and most homeowners are reluctant to ditch their bathtub permanently.

So, to help us squeeze both into smaller bathrooms or en suites, shower specialist Roman has created a collection of new shower enclosures with doors that swing partially inwards. This handily keeps intrusion into bathroom space to a minimum, as well as adding a modern look.

The Lumin8 Inswing shower enclosure comes in four sizes, with a choice of widths from 76cm to 120cm. What's more, the wide frameless doorway means you can get in and out comfortably in even the smallest bathroom, no matter how speedy you need to be.

IDEAL **V** GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on kitchen mixer taps



£421

Italian style
Opt for a sleek look with polished stainless steel
Stalto professional tap, Abode range, John Lewis



£134

Contemporary twist
Add a modern touch with cool black accents
Fiera monobloc spring neck tap, Cooke & Lewis range, B&Q

Easy decking

Blow away winter blues by thinking forward to spring. New generation decking from Millboard looks like timber, but is made from maintenance-free, anti-slip polymer resin and fibres. So sit back and relax...

Genius idea



Weathered oak vintage boards, £84 per sq m, Millboard

Project KNOW HOW

Crown Paints' handy app *My Room Painter* helps visualise how your interior could look. Use a photo of a room to test new colours, plus there's a paint calculator and an inspiration library. Download free from Apple and Android app stores

BEFORE

The house was a dated mix of bricks, chunky tiles and awkward dormers

EXTREME *Transformations*

AFTER

From uninspiring build...

Joan and Richard Short reinvented their boxy Seventies house by adding a distinctive wall of curved glazing to link up its extensions

Take the **60-SECOND TOUR**

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, detached Seventies house in Hertfordshire.

WHO LIVES HERE

Joan and Richard Short.

WHAT THEY DID

The Shorts extended and completely remodelled the original house over the course of several years, which has opened up the interior living

space. Joan and Richard have also improved the property's external appearance by upgrading the roof and cladding, and installing new aluminium-framed windows.

WHAT IT COST

The Shorts paid £210,000 for the house in 1992 and have spent £268,000 extending and remodelling the property, which is now worth around £1.5 million.



◀ **GROUND FLOOR**
There's a spacious kitchen with interconnecting living and dining areas, a separate living room, plus a study

FIRST FLOOR ▶

There are five bedrooms, two en suites and a family bathroom on the first floor





A barrel-vaulted roof above a large arched window looks smart and contemporary

New weatherboard cladding, glazing and clay tiles have given the extended property a fresh new look

to inviting modern home

When Joan and Richard Short purchased their current home in 1992, they knew they were taking on a project but had no idea of exactly what was in store. 'Up until then we'd lived in a succession of modern family homes in Letchworth Garden City, but when our two boys became teenagers, we thought it was time to find somewhere to settle,' explains Joan.

Location was their key consideration, and the Hertfordshire house they chose stands in a quiet, tree-lined road of individually designed detached properties built in the Sixties and Seventies. 'It had been rented out for a while, the internal décor was tired and the garden was overgrown, which made the price competitive,' says Joan. 'We could see it had potential, and we had the time and energy to take it on.'

The couple added two straightforward extensions: a single-storey, full-width rear one,

which enlarged the living room and created a breakfast room and games room, and an extension above the garage to create a fifth bedroom. Then, about five years ago, the Shorts began considering whether they should move house again. They felt the downstairs of the property had too many rooms and doors, and not enough useable space, while the hallway and rear ground-floor extensions felt dark.

'In the end, we decided we were settled here, and instead we'd invest in giving our house the wow factor,' says Richard. 'It was definitely dated and low on kerb appeal, with poorly constructed dormer windows. These reduced the size of the two front bedrooms, which were very hot in summer and cold in winter.'

TIME FOR A CHANGE After considering a number of local architects, Joan and Richard chose Pentangle Design Group in nearby Hitchin (01462 431133; pentangledesign.co.uk), as they felt that partner Robert Downing was in tune with their aims for the house. Together ➔



Joan and Richard Short

We love...
...the greater levels of light and the overall sense of space that now runs throughout the house'



A bank of roof lights and floor-to-ceiling windows let in lots of natural light, so the living area feels bright and spacious

‘We’ve received so many positive comments from friends and family. It has become the house of our dreams and there’s nothing we would change’

they devised a plan to remodel the front of the property in a way that would be acceptable to both the planners and the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation.

‘Within five minutes of Robert’s follow-up visit, we knew his proposal would achieve all of our objectives,’ says Joan. ‘From a budgeting perspective, we decided to complete the work in phases – tackling the front of the house in 2012 and the rear in 2013. We also allocated a budget of £250,000 for the entire project.’

GETTING STARTED Once planning permission had been granted for all the alterations, the Shorts tendered the project to a number of builders, and selected a long-established contractor, DB Sharp & Sons (01462 672359; dbsharpandsons.co.uk), who they knew would complete the work to a high standard. The builder assigned a project manager to ensure that everything was completed on schedule, with phases one and two each taking six months.

‘We carried on living in the house throughout this time, and because all the external work was tackled during the winter months, it was always cold inside,’ says Joan. ‘We had corrugated sheeting rattling and plastic flapping throughout the night, with dust everywhere, and we had to use a camping kitchen to cook for three months.’

Working within the current footprint, the internal layout has been reorganised to create more useable living space, incorporating highly

efficient heating and ventilation systems.

A modern, redesigned kitchen with the latest appliances and gadgets replaced the little-used games room overlooking the rear garden, and high levels of natural light are now delivered to all parts of the house through expansive windows, glass doors and roof lights.

ADDING KERB APPEAL The property’s protruding front walls were extended upwards to replace the existing inset dormer windows and enlarge the bedrooms on the first floor. Externally, the brick house has been clad in hand-made clay tiles and oak weatherboarding for a smarter appearance. ‘The oak-clad section was built in blockwork, and the main bedroom is timber framed, with structural steelwork to support the upper level,’ says Richard.

The existing windows were replaced with energy-efficient, aluminium-framed ones, which are powder coated in dark grey. A new barrel-vaulted zinc roof creates a dynamic vaulted first-floor landing/seating area at the top of the stairs, where a bespoke arched oak window looks out over the front garden.

Despite some late deliveries of materials, the builder worked rigidly to the deadline, and when the front elevation of the house was unveiled for the first time, the Shorts were stunned by the transformation. ‘We’ve received so many positive comments from our friends and family,’ says Joan. ‘It has become the house of our dreams and there’s absolutely nothing we would change.’



The layout provides an open feel with each room flowing into the other



With its all-white palette and gloss units, the kitchen is ultramodern

RENOVATION KNOW-HOW

■ **Many alterations can be made under Permitted Development**, meaning you don't need to get planning permission. For more information on planning and building regulations, visit planningportal.gov.uk and always check with your local authority before making any major changes.

■ **Keep your neighbours informed** at all stages and you might need to obtain party wall agreements, too. Check the advice given at planningportal.gov.uk.

■ **For extensions and major remodelling**, it's usually advisable to employ an architect to draw up accurate plans: the Royal Institute of British Architects (architecture.com) holds a directory of approved architects.

■ **Get at least three quotes for all major purchases**, including when you're hiring tradesmen and, whenever possible, negotiate fixed prices for each job rather than paying a daily rate.

■ **It's not usually advisable to undertake major roofing work on a DIY basis**. Go to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' website (nfrc.co.uk) to find a reputable roofer to do the work.

■ **Remember to factor delays into the schedule** and always have a contingency pot of money to pay for those unforeseen expenses.

IN DETAIL FEATURE WINDOWS

Use windows to add character, like the Shorts did

Joan and Richard fitted smart new windows, including a bespoke arched one made by a local joiner, to transform the look of their home.

■ The right window can dramatically improve a property's appearance, its energy efficiency and security.

A simple alteration to size or shape can also let much more light flood in.

■ Purpose-made windows will take longer and be more costly to fit than off-the-shelf versions, but one or two bespoke feature windows can add personality to a house – from corner glazing to arched or round designs.

■ Planning permission is not normally needed for repairing, fitting or replacing existing windows, and double glazing can be installed under permitted development as long as the building isn't listed or located in a conservation area. Building regulations will apply to thermal performance and to other elements, such as safety and ventilation.

■ Energy-efficient windows come in a variety of frames and styles, and the BFRC Scheme (bfrc.org) is the UK's national system for rating the energy efficiency of windows.



The arched oak window is a stunning detail

BEFORE



The Thirties property had single-glazed leaded windows that made the rooms feel cold

A triangular window makes a stunning feature and lets the daylight flood in



EXTREME
Transformation 2

AFTER

‘Modern windows have revitalised our home’

A dramatic extension and feature windows gave Helen and Sean Ledder’s period home a contemporary twist

Doubling the floor area of their detached Thirties north London home has given Helen and Sean Ledder and their four children all the living space they need. Previously, the Muswell Hill property had felt cramped, but by building side and rear extensions, converting the loft and incorporating lots of feature glazing, they now have a brighter, more practical home.

Chris Jones of Jones Associates Architects (020 7281 3634; jones-associates.co.uk) oversaw the project and was recommended by friends. ‘We wanted a modern design that wasn’t too clinical,’ says Helen. ‘Windows were

a key consideration, as the existing wooden ones were single glazed with leaded lights, which meant the house was freezing in winter.’

ADDING ROOM Chris drew up plans to increase the property’s living space from 182sq m to 281sq m and in the process create two extra bedrooms and a bathroom, making six bedrooms and three bathrooms in total. The roof extension and alterations were done under permitted development rights, but the ground floor side and rear extensions required planning permission, which was granted.

The family then moved into a rented house nearby while their builders set to work. They





Rear, side and roof extensions, plus modern glazing, have transformed the house



Sliding glass doors and roof lights ensure the kitchen is filled with natural light

‘Windows were a key consideration as the existing wooden ones were single glazed, which meant the house was freezing in winter’



Basalt paving has been used outdoors and inside the kitchen-diner to connect the spaces

FEATURE DEBBIE JEFFERY PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE, GARETH GARDNER PLANS PERSONA-ID

demolished the garage to make space for a new kitchen extension and excavated a substantial amount of soil to create a new terrace before building a concrete retaining wall.

LETTING IN LIGHT Rendered blockwork walls were erected for the single-storey rear and side extensions, with 5m-long sliding glass doors installed in the dining area. The small paned windows were replaced with casement ones, and new dormers were built upstairs, with zinc-clad projecting bay windows constructed downstairs. These are aluminium framed and were powder coated grey to match the zinc cladding on the dormers and parts of the roof.

Bringing light into the house was key, and now the property sports a striking triangular window in one of the bedrooms at the back of the house. Four large roof lights installed downstairs also flood the interior with light.

Helen and Sean bought the property for £1.3 million in 2011 and have spent £500,000 renovating it – it’s now worth around £2 million. ‘Visitors comment that the house has a Scandinavian feel thanks to the simple finishes and huge amount of light from the glazing,’ says Helen. ‘And thanks to careful planning, it now works really well for our family.’



Helen Ledder

Trials & triumphs...

■ **What was the high point?**

‘When the new windows were installed, they transformed the look of the house.’

■ **Any low points?**

‘We were worried we’d find a sewer when the garden was excavated but, fortunately, this wasn’t the case.’

■ **Who or what was the project saviour?**

‘The glazing, as it makes the indoor and outdoor spaces feel connected.’

‘We added space and lots of light’

Want a bright, roomy family kitchen? The Smiths built an extension to achieve just that

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



Spacious solution
Extending out across the width of the house and adding a roof lantern and roof lights has created a large, bright family kitchen that has lots of storage space to keep it clutter free

BEFORE

Love their
STYLE?

KAREN AND DAVE'S WEST FARLEIGH UNITS ARE FROM BURLANES £££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY THE COOKE & LEWIS CARISBROOKE FROM B&Q £ OR MAGNET'S SOMERTON FERN ££

Take the
60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A Victorian, four-bedroom, terraced town house in Crystal Palace, southeast London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Karen and Dave Smith, with their son, Oliver, six.

WHAT THEY DID

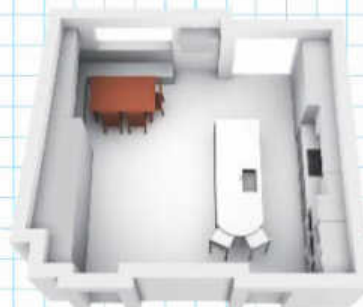
The couple knocked down an old lean-to, creating space for a kitchen-diner extension across the back of the house. The ceiling was taken up to the rafters to create an open, spacious feel, and two roof lights and a full-length roof lantern were added.

THE LOOK

Simple Shaker, with a muted grey palette for the walls and floor.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Glossy worksurfaces show every mark, so we went for suede-effect ones instead, which always look good and are easy to care for.”



WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£23,000
Worktops.....	£3,900
Sinks and taps.....	£1,800
Appliances.....	£7,052
Floor tiles.....	£1,200
TOTAL.....	£36,952

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Karen and Dave created their new kitchen

THE LAYOUT The ovens and hob are located in the long run of units behind the island. On the opposite wall, tall units house the washing machine and tumble dryer, as well as an extra sink



Karen and Dave Smith's new house was so perfect, they knew they were going to buy it the minute they saw it. 'The only downside was that the kitchen was small and dark, despite having a lean-to extension along one side,' says Karen. 'Rather than being a useful extra space, the lean-to ended up as an overflow for storage and, with gaps in the kitchen floorboards, we even had an invasion of slugs!'

After living with the cramped layout for four years, the couple asked an architect to draw up plans for a single-storey extension across the width of the house to create a bright, open-plan family kitchen. 'The room had a low ceiling below a high sloping roof, so we had that raised to create a more spacious feel,' says Karen.

As for the units, she found the Shaker-style ones she wanted at a local bespoke kitchen company. 'The designer there instantly knew the look I was going for,' says Karen.

The new layout and muted palette make the room feel relaxing, and the family now enjoy spending time here. 'I have a garden room for when I work from home,' says Karen. 'But I prefer to plug in my laptop here – I love it so much.'

▲ *Keep it casual*

Karen asked the kitchen company to include a banquette seating area to create an informal dining space. The bench-style seats also contain hidden storage, which is handy for son Oliver's toys, while the wooden table and chairs add a relaxed, rustic feel

Laundry station ►

Instead of a separate utility room, a bank of tall cupboards has been used to house the washing machine and tumble dryer, as well as a handy second sink for washing muddy boots and barbecue kit





Eating area
A softly rounded overhang at one end of the island creates a mini breakfast bar with room for a couple of bar chairs. Bold cutlery wall stickers make a fun feature



▲ **Hidden detail**
A handy warming drawer sits unobtrusively beneath the microwave combination oven

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Bespoke West Farleigh **units**, £23,000; Quooker Fusion 3 in 1 **boiling water tap**, £1,150; 1.5 **undermount sink**, £360; **butler's sink** (in utility cupboard), £290; all Burlanes. **Units** painted in Pavilion Gray Estate Eggshell; **island** painted in Downpipe Estate Eggshell; both £53 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Silestone Lagoon suede finish **worktop**, £3,900 (including fitting), DG Granite Factory. Glass **splashback** in Farrow & Ball's Manor House Gray, from £222 per sq m, Balham Glass. For a similar electric **oven**, try the B16P52N3GB, £835; for a similar **warming drawer**, try the N22H40N3GB, £429; T54T95N2 induction **hob**, £1,164; all Neff range; for a similar **microwave combination oven**, try the AEG KM8403101M, £639; all RDO Kitchens & Appliances. Area Grey **floor tiles**, £40 per sq m, The Tile Place. Ingolf **bar stools**, £50 each, Ikea. For a similar **dining table**, try the Assam, from £250; for similar **chairs**, try the Assam, £69.99 each; both TNS Furniture. For a similar **chandelier**, try the 8695 5GY Marie Therese five light, £156, Searchlight range, Ocean Lighting. For similar **pendants**, try the Blue Smoke round mirrored glass, £120 each, Alexander & Pearl. Cutlery **wall stickers**, £29.99, 1wall

FOR DETAILS TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



▲ **Interior design**
Behind their simple fronts, the units contain a wealth of storage options, from larder-style shelves to spice racks on the insides of the doors



How we did it

“We found our ideal kitchen at Burlanes – a local bespoke company that translated our ideas into reality and designed just what we wanted. Then our builders set to work. First, they removed the lean-to, then they extended and fitted a new, larger window, French windows and roof lights. My idea of having a hob on the island had to be scrapped, as the roof lantern is directly overhead. We put the sink there instead, and the hob against the wall. The project took 12 weeks and the building work and installation cost £50,000.”

‘Knocking through gave us vital space’

Tired of a tiny galley kitchen? Copy the Stollers, who removed a wall to create a bigger family friendly room

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£10,118
Worktop.....	£4,140
Sinks and tap.....	£670
Appliances.....	£2,395
Flooring.....	£500
Splashback.....	£216
TOTAL.....	£18,039

Light and bright
Knocking down a wall between the kitchen and a family room has created a practical kitchen-diner. White walls and sleek high-gloss units help the room feel spacious

Love their STYLE?

THE STOLLERS' ROTPUNKT CABINETS IN KASHMIR ARE FROM KITCHENS KITCHENS ££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY IKEA'S METOD/MAXIMERA IN VEDDINGE GREY £ OR THE INTEGRA ASTRAL GREY FROM MAGNET £££

BEFORE



After buying a three-bedroom, semi-detached house in north London four years ago, Natasha and Jonny Stoller put renovating its kitchen at the top of their to-do list. 'The room was really dark and narrow,' says Natasha. 'The cupboards were green and some of the ceiling was clad in oak, making it feel smaller.'

The couple originally considered building a small extension to add more space to the kitchen, but they soon realised a few simple structural changes would be more cost effective. When they discovered that the kitchen ceiling had previously been lowered to house pipework for the bathroom above it, Natasha and Jonny decided to raise it. 'Adding more height and knocking down the wall between the kitchen and family room created so much extra space and light that we didn't need to add an extension,' says Natasha.

Jonny had lots of ideas for the best way to maximise space in the new layout. 'When our kitchen designer came up with a similar design, we felt very comfortable,' says Natasha. 'We couldn't be happier with the result.'

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Natasha and Jonny created their new kitchen

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, Thirties semi-detached house in north London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Natasha and Jonny Stoller, with their daughter, Peyton, two.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple raised the ceiling, removed a chimney stack and knocked two rooms into one

to create a light and bright, open-plan kitchen-diner.

THE LOOK

Contemporary, with handleless, high-gloss units, grey worktops and a pale-pink glass splashback.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Before choosing a supplier, get an idea of what you want by using online kitchen-planning tools.”



THE LAYOUT The base units are arranged in a U shape with the sink in the centre beneath the window. There's a dining area to the right



Pastel pop
The couple added a pink glass splashback once the rest of the kitchen was fitted to provide a hit of colour



▲ Double duty
A mixer tap with a pull-out nozzle serves two sinks. 'The extendable tap makes it easy to clean awkward pans and dishes,' says Natasha



Sleek chic
Handleless units and integrated appliances give the kitchen a modern feel



How we did it

“The building work included knocking down the wall between the kitchen and family room, reworking the pipework for the bathroom so that we could raise the kitchen ceiling, replastering the walls and ceiling, and making the floor even. We also had to remove part of a chimney stack, which gave us an extra 40cm and opened up the space. We paid around £13,000 for the building work and the kitchen installation cost £1,998. The whole project took about four months.”

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

RotPunkt Power HL high gloss units in Kashmir, from £264 for a W600mm base unit; pink glass splashback, from £280 per sq m; both Kitchens Kitchens. Silestone worktops in Cygnus, from £252 per linear m, The Marble Store. For a similar **combi oven**, try the HBC84H501B, £570; for a similar **single oven**, try the HBA63B150B, £549; for a similar **gas hob**, try the PPQ716B91E, £401; for a similar **chimney hood**, try the DWW097A50B, £364; all Bosch range, A.o.com. Aria chrome mixer **tap**, £342; Kubus 110 45 **sink**, £317; Kubus 110 55 **sink**, £381; all Franke. For similar laminate **flooring**, try the Parador Trendtime 6 in Light Grey, £23.99 per sq m, Luxury Flooring & Furnishings. For a similar **stand mixer**, try the Artisan in Silver Medallion, £450, Kitchenaid range, Currys. For a similar **kettle**, try the Storm Grey 18954, £30, Russell Hobbs range, Sainsbury's. For a similar **coffee machine**, try the Inissia, from £89; Pixie Target **capsule dispenser** (on wall), £44; both Nespresso. **Tea towels**, £15 for three, Mary Berry range, John Lewis

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‘We wanted a versatile room’

Turn a kitchen into a multipurpose living space – the Knights did it by extending into their garden

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£7,670
Worktops.....	£890
Sink.....	£199
Tap.....	£98
Appliances.....	£2,330
Tiles.....	£100
Flooring.....	£1,020
TOTAL.....	£12,307

Love their STYLE?

THE KNIGHTS' SHAKER KITCHEN IS FROM HOWDENS JOINERY ££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY IKEA'S METOD CABINETS IN BODBYN GREY £ OR WREN KITCHENS' LB SHAKER GULLWING £££

Sociable space
Adding an extension has transformed a galley room into an open-plan kitchen and living area. 'I love that people can sit and talk to me while I'm baking,' says Alex



BEFORE



Alex and Shaun Knight weren't looking for a renovation project when they bought their house in Middlesex in 2005. 'However, this property did offer us the potential to build out at a later date and we needed that flexibility, as we were expecting our second child at the time,' says Alex.

Some years later, Alex longed for a kitchen that the whole family could enjoy. 'The original layout was galley style,' she says. 'It was completely outdated, with an exposed boiler, and there wasn't even space for a family sized fridge, so we kept ours in the dining room. Fortunately, Shaun's an architect, so he designed our open-plan rear extension.'

Alex's dream kitchen was a practical space for baking, with plenty of storage and room for the whole family to sit and talk. When it came to choosing a design, she wanted traditional Shaker-style units and heritage paint colours, with modern touches, such as dark laminate flooring and spotlights. 'I went for a timeless look,' she says. 'Now, I'm totally head-over-heels in love with the room we've created.'

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Alex and Shaun created their new kitchen

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom Thirties house in Hampton, Middlesex.

WHO LIVES HERE

Alex and Shaun Knight, with their children, Maddie, 13, and Archie, nine.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple added a rear extension and knocked the kitchen and

dining room into one room to create a large, open-plan kitchen, dining and living area.

THE LOOK

Modern vintage, combining Shaker units with sleek dining furniture.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Always have a little extra put aside for the unexpected or the things you fall in love with.”



THE LAYOUT Wall and base units with built-in appliances run along one wall. An island stands parallel to a dining table at one end of the space, and there's a living area at the other end

Antique touch

French-style armoires and a vintage-inspired statement clock make for a relaxed look



KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

For similar **units**, try the Metod in Bodbyn Grey, from £37 for a W400mm base unit, Ikea. For a similar **sink and tap**, try the Reginox traditional ceramic 1.5 sink and mixer, £200, Victorian Plumbing. Wenge **worktop**, from £300 for a L300cm x W62cm, Worktop Express. Kentish Town grey **tiles**, £19.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors. **Walls** painted in Purbeck Stone Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For similar **flooring**, try the Classic laminate in Old Oak Grey, £17 per sq m, Quick Step. For a similar gas **hob**, try the PCH615M90E, £249, Bosch range, Ao.com. For a similar **radiator**, try the Acova classic three column, from £97, Screwfix. Jasper **table**, £99; Jasper **chairs**, £39 each; all House range, John Lewis. For a similar **armoire**, try the Provencale, £1,450, Laura Ashley. Sparkle **rug**, from £45, Next. Reno **pendant**, £266, Innes. Kensington wall **clock**, £70, Graham and Green. For a similar **bread bin**, try the bread bin in Stone, £28, Garden Trading

FOR DETAILS TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Heritage style
Classic Metro tiles combined with Shaker units and cup handles create a timeless feel



How we did it

“In March 2014, work began on the extension at the back of the house to create one large, light and bright open-plan kitchen-diner with bifold doors and a big skylight. Shaun designed it and a local builder with more than 20 years’ experience carried out the work. It took four months, but the builder made us a very useful makeshift mini kitchen in the living room. After the build was completed, it took two weeks for our builder to install the kitchen, which cost £2,400.”

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‘A smart layout was our goal’

Take a tip from the Lygoes and maximise your space with a considered design

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Tired of years of renting, Libby and Adam Lygoe decided to buy a Victorian house that needed refurbishing. ‘As we’d never renovated before, we didn’t get a total wreck,’ says Libby. ‘It had been renovated 12 years before, but we wanted to bring it up to date and make it our own.’

The couple, who have two children, decided to convert the loft, coming up with a plan that included a main bedroom with an en suite. ‘Designing the best layout was key to the room’s success and I couldn’t believe that a bath and a shower would fit without looking cramped,’ says Libby. ‘But that’s what we achieved, thanks to a brilliant design company.’

Maximising space and light was key, so they cleverly added extra height. ‘We included a flat skylight, which is recessed into the roof,’ says Libby. ‘This drenches the room in light and increases the head height, as it was formed with an upstand higher than the rest of the ceiling.’

Keeping the décor neutral has allowed Libby to update the bathroom easily. ‘I can freshen the look quickly by using different towels and accessories,’ she says. ‘I love our en suite – it’s a tranquil retreat from busy family life.’

BEFORE



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Victorian, terraced house in Balham, southwest London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Libby and Adam Lygoe, with their children, Lucas, 15, and Holly, 10.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple lowered the ceiling on the first floor by 22cm to create more headroom in the loft area, then they boxed out and squared off the loft space

to form straight walls. They also installed a skylight and had the en-suite bathroom tanked.

THE LOOK

Contemporary classic, with clean lines and a neutral colour scheme.

LESSONS LEARNED

“A loft conversion requires expertise, so hire professionals to ensure you achieve the best layout and a quality finish.”



THE LAYOUT On the left of the door are vanity units with twin basins and mirrored cabinets above. The bath sits under the skylight, with a loo to the right. A wall separates the loo from the shower, which is to the right of the door

Room for two
Wide vanity units provide ample storage, while the shallow design maintains the feeling of spaciousness. 'We even have room for two basins,' says Libby

Love their STYLE?

THE LYGOES' MOSAIC TILES ARE FROM EUROPEAN HERITAGE £. FOR SIMILAR, TRY THE MOSAIC TILE SHOP'S MARBLE AND GLASS CHOCOLATE MOSAIC TILES ££ OR TOPPS TILES' MADRID ANTHRACITE LUSTRE MOSAIC £££

WHAT IT COST

Bath and tap.....	£4,599
Shower.....	£1,214
Loo.....	£270
Basins and taps.....	£1,820
Countertop.....	£1,206
Tiles.....	£1,100
Cabinets and units.....	£3,000
Towel rail.....	£247
TOTAL.....	£13,456

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW

Libby and Adam created their new bathroom



Hotel style
Pairing a modern bath with a freestanding tap adds a boutique-hotel look. 'At night, you can gaze at the stars through the skylight,' says Libby



▲ **Tall order**
Installing the shower tray at a lower level to the bathroom floor gives the space a lofty feel



How we did it

“We lowered the ceiling on the first floor to give us extra headroom in the loft, then we moved an existing staircase to improve access, and tanked the en suite to avoid leakage into the room below. Mark Barratt of Cato Creative had great ideas and project managed the build, sourcing the sanitaryware and co-ordinating the trades. During the structural works we stayed with friends, then lived in the loft conversion for the rest of the house renovation. The work took three months, and the design, building and installation cost £6,095.”

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Bespoke mirrored **cabinets**, £800; bespoke vanity **units**, £2,200; all Cato Creative. Luna **bath**, £2,900; Luna **basins**, £260 each; all Homeetc Bathroom. Tara Logic **basin mixers**, £650 each, Dornbracht. For a similar **bath mixer**, try the Bold with kit, £1,699; for a similar **shower mixer**, try the Designer wall outlet, £125; for a similar **shower head**, try the Glide 400mm, £389; all Crosswater. For a similar **shower screen**, try the Simpsons 10mm, from £396; for a similar **loo**, try the Roca wall hung, £364; both UKBathrooms. For a similar limestone **countertop**, try a selection, Marble City. Docks white Rett floor, wall and shower **tiles** (60cm sq), £39 per sq m; Spa Spa mosaic **tiles**, £9.29 per sheet; all European Heritage. Longitube **towel rail**, from £247, Feature Radiators. Classic **towels**, from £4 for a hand towel, John Lewis. Nieve **bath mat**, £25, The White Company. **Toiletries**, from a selection, Attic

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‘We wanted it to look seamless’

Use marble, mirrors and bespoke storage, like John Gregory and Paul Harris have, for an elegant-looking, high-end finish

Renovating an entire house isn't for the faint-hearted, but John Gregory and Paul Harris were looking for a challenge. 'We wanted to live in a house with space to entertain guests and a southwest-facing garden,' says John. 'When this place came up, it was perfect for us.'

During their first three months living in the house, the couple knocked two loft bedrooms into one and raised the ceiling to create space for a dressing room and a bathroom en suite to the main bedroom. 'While the work was being done, we camped out in the loft with a few basic pieces of furniture,' says John. 'It was a bit like having a bedsit at the top of the house.'

With the newly designated area created, John and Paul could plan their dream luxury space, which included pale-grey marble tiles and bespoke bathroom cabinets. 'The mirrored doors are heated, so we never get condensation on them,' says John. 'We also had an opaque glass shower screen fitted that disappears into the wall without any fixtures in the way. The marble was cut on site at a 45° angle, so all the bevelled edges fit together for an elegant finish, with the join between the wall and floor looking seamless. It really looks fantastic – we're so pleased with it.'

BEFORE



Smart shower

A sloped floor eliminates the need for a shower tray, while hidden grooves in the floor and slots on the wall secure the glass screen

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, late-Victorian house in Clapham, southwest London.

WHO LIVES HERE

John Gregory and Paul Harris.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple merged two rooms to create a main bedroom with a dressing area and an en suite, which has a walk-in shower, a wall-hung loo and twin basins.

THE LOOK

Contemporary and luxurious, with top-quality materials including grey-veined marble, dark-wood detailing, heated-mirror bespoke cabinetry and underfloor heating.

LESSONS LEARNED

“We could have had the glass shower screen made slightly wider, then we wouldn't have to use a floor mat outside the shower.”



THE LAYOUT A dressing area leads to the en-suite bathroom, which is divided into a wet area with a walk-in shower and wall-hung loo, and a dry area with twin basins in a marble vanity unit

Bespoke design
‘I love the heated-mirror cabinets, the elegant finish of the marble and the clean look from having the taps fixed to the wall,’ says John

Love their STYLE?

JOHN AND PAUL'S CABINETS ARE FROM WAB CONSTRUCTION £££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY NEXT'S TRIPLE MIRRORED CABINET £ OR ROPER RHODES'S ABSOLUTE MIRRORED CABINET ££

WHAT IT COST

Shower.....	£1,170
Loo.....	£1,600
Basins and taps.....	£1,460
Vanity unit.....	£1,200
Tiles.....	£3,500
Cabinets.....	£1,050
Window shutters.....	£600
TOTAL.....	£10,580



How we did it

“An architect and structural engineer produced technical

drawings to our plans and we hired one company to do all the building work. It also sourced certain materials and designed a sloped drainage system for the walk-in shower. The en suite formed part of a renovation that cost around £12,000 in total and took six months to complete.”

FEATURE NATALIE FLAUM PHOTOGRAPHS ALISON HAMMOND PLAN PERSONA-ID

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Raindance Select S 240 two-jet **showerhead**, £440; Axor Citterio M **basin taps**, £330 each; all Hansgrohe range; Senso wash **loo**, £1,600, Philippe Starck range; Special Ground **basins**, £400 each, Duravit Starck range; all EC1 Bathrooms. Calacatta honed **marble**, from £550 per sq m, Granite World London. Window **shutters**, £600, Hillarys. Bespoke bathroom **cabinetry**, price on request, WAB Construction. Butterfly **stool** in Santos Palisander, £618, Sori Yanagi collection, Vitra range, Heal's. Large Ono **jug**, £30, LSA International range, John Lewis. For similar **towels**, try the Supreme Capsule Stripe collection, from £3.50 for a face cloth, Christy

FOR DETAILS TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Simple Solutions

GIVE SOMETHING PERSONAL

Hand-made gifts always feel special, so make one of these to show how much you care

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



PERSONALISED MAP COASTERS

Make these with a map that has special meaning for the recipient, then present them in a smart box.

■ Map ■ Cutting mat ■ Four cork coasters (Darice coasters, £2.79 for four, Hobbycraft) ■ Craft knife ■ Foam brushes (£1.89 for three, Royal & Langnickel range, Amazon.co.uk, or DIY stores) ■ PVA glue

- 1 Unfold the map on a cutting mat, printed side down, then place a coaster on top. Cut out circles from the map by tracing around the coaster with the craft knife.
- 2 Use the foam brush to apply glue to one side of a coaster. Stick the map circle to the coaster, printed side up, smoothing to remove air bubbles. Repeat the process for all the coasters.
- 3 Brush the tops and sides of all the coasters with a thin layer of glue to seal them, then dry completely before putting them in a gift box.



OATY BATH MILK

Making a nourishing bath milk that will soothe skin and ease daily tension is easier than you think.

■ 2 chamomile teabags ■ 125g powdered milk ■ 80g oatmeal ■ 90g bicarbonate of soda ■ A sprig of lavender ■ Clove oil or vanilla essence ■ Glass jar ■ Label

- 1 Cut open the teabags and tip the chamomile into a bowl. Mix in the remaining dry ingredients, then add drops of clove oil or vanilla essence to your desired strength – alternatively add your favourite essential oil, such as lavender to make a relaxing milk, or lemongrass for an invigorating one.
- 2 Pour the mixture into a glass jar and label with the instructions to use half a cup per bath, swirling it into running warm water.
- 3 The bath milk will remain fresh for a couple of months.



MONOGRAMMED WINE GLASS

Find a vintage glass in a charity shop or at a car-boot sale, or personalise a basic one for the ideal wine lover's gift.

■ Letter stencil ■ Self-adhesive vinyl ■ Cutting mat ■ Sticky tape ■ Craft knife ■ Glass ■ Rubber gloves ■ Paintbrush ■ Etching cream (Armour Etch, £6.95 for 90ml, Hobby's)

- 1 To make the stencil, print out your chosen letter from one of the font options on your computer in a size that will fit the available space on your glass.
- 2 Place the printed-out letter onto a sheet of self-adhesive vinyl on a cutting mat. Secure it to the mat with sticky tape.
- 3 Cut out the letter shape using the craft knife, pressing firmly enough to cut through the paper and vinyl underneath. Discard the cutout letter, so you are left with the letter outline in the vinyl.
- 4 Peel off the backing sheet and position the stencil onto the outside of the glass, rubbing out air bubbles or creases.
- 5 Wearing rubber gloves, paint etching cream onto the letter shape made by the stencil. Leave for 10 minutes, rinse off the cream and peel off the stencil. Wash the glass with soap and water, then dry. Wrap in tissue paper and pop in a gift box.



To watch instructional videos on how to make all these personalised Christmas gifts at home, go to housetohome.co.uk/videos



MULLED-CIDER SACHETS

A lovely idea for a hostess gift or stocking filler, these would also make a more substantial gift with a nice set of craft ciders or some vintage glasses. This recipe makes 10 mulled-cider sachets.

■ Scissors ■ Tape measure ■ ½m muslin
■ 2 long cinnamon sticks, cut into 2-3cm lengths ■ 10 star anise ■ 20 cardamom pods ■ 40 black peppercorns ■ Jar of cloves ■ Baker's twine ■ Decorative tin or jar ■ Thin ribbon ■ Decorative label

- 1 Cut 20 15cm-diameter circles out of the muslin. Layer these in pairs.
- 2 Into the centre of each pair of circles, place a piece of cinnamon stick, 1 star anise, 2 cardamom pods, 4 black

- peppercorns and ¼tsp cloves. Tie each muslin circle together with the twine to create sachets and put in the tin or jar.
- 3 Tie the ribbon around the rim of the tin or jar. Write on the label – either the name of the gift's recipient, the words 'mulled cider' or a festive message – and tie onto the ribbon. Alternatively, stick an adhesive label onto the tin or jar.
 - 4 Attach a note with the following instructions: 'Place one sachet in a mug, fill with warm cider and steep for 3-5min'.

WRAP IT RIGHT

Having gone to the effort of making a gift, present it in style

PERSONALISED MAP COASTERS

1. **Stack coasters neatly in a box**
Stripe round small gift box (H10cm x W13cm x L13cm), £3.75, Paperchase
2. **Don't forget to buy an eye-catching tag**
Festive Christmas Metallics gift tags, £2.99 for nine, Ginger Ray



OATY BATH MILK

1. **Pop your bathing treat into a decorative bag**
Hemsmak paper bags (L30cm x W15cm), £3 for 15, Ikea
2. **Put tissue paper in the bag for a luxury look**
Gold star tissue paper, £2 for three sheets, Paperchase



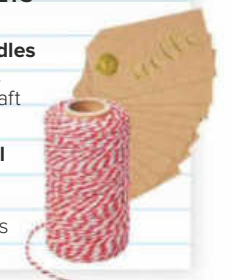
MONOGRAMMED WINE GLASS

1. **Place your glass in a beautiful gift bag**
Vinter gift bag (H42cm x W33cm), £2.50 for two, Ikea
2. **Wrap up the glass**
White sparkle tissue paper, £2 for three sheets, Paperchase



MULLED-CIDER SACHETS

1. **Perfect for labelling your spice-filled bundles**
'Hello' paper gift tags, £1.50 for 20, Hobbycraft
2. **Practical and pretty, baker's twine is ideal for tying up sachets**
Baker's string, £3.99 per roll, The Gift Oasis



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My Design School at KLC is an exciting online interior design course that offers a fun and innovative way to learn.

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Presented entirely online, students can participate any time of the day or night, at home or on the move! The interactive online community allows students to chat with like minded people, share sources and gain insight into the latest trends. In no time at all students develop the confidence and know-how to tackle their own project and make changes to their own home.

**Exclusive 50% discount - enrol today for just £199 (RRP £399)
Visit klc.co.uk/mds and quote IH1215 or call 020 7376 3377**

*Course RRP £399. Offer ends 20th January 2016.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Ideal Home**

Try something new...

START A BLOG

Want to wax lyrical about food? Or enthuse about interiors? Here's how to get your thoughts online...

Q WHAT IS A BLOG?

A blog is a website or web page written by an individual or a small team in a tone that's quite chatty and informal. Posts appear in reverse chronological order, with the most recent at the top. The majority of blogs are interactive, so readers can leave comments at the end of posts to encourage further discussion.

Q WHY DO IT?

Not only is a blog a great creative outlet, providing the opportunity to explore a passion for writing, photography or whatever it is that fires you up, but it can also help you find and connect with like-minded people online. The sense of community among bloggers is strong – tap into that and you'll find people who will inspire and support you. Blogging conferences, such as Blogtacular (blogtacular.com), provide the means to meet these virtual friends face-to-face, as well as offering you advice and knowledge.

Q WHAT TO BLOG ABOUT?

Some people treat their blog like an online diary, while others focus on a particular subject, such as food, fashion, parenting, interiors or crafts. You could use it to talk about your family, your work – something you're really passionate about. It's important to love the subject you choose to blog about because this will come through naturally in your posts, which is the secret to attracting loyal readers.

Q WHAT DO I DO FIRST?

You need to come up with a name for your blog. Take your time with this – it's better to brainstorm and mull over your ideas than to sprint off with the first thing you think of and possibly regret it later. This name could be with you for years to come,

so putting the initial effort into finding something that feels right is well worth it. Ideally, you want that magic combination of something memorable that also sums up what your blog is about. If you can include a searchable term to help lead people to your blog, then that's even better. Type your possible names into a search engine – you don't want to pick something that's already out there. You can also check if the domain name (web address) is available on sites such as 123-reg.co.uk or tsohost.com.

Q WHAT NEXT?

So you know what you want to blog about and you've chosen your name. Now you need a platform – the software or service that turns a regular site into a functioning blog – it'll do all the technical stuff for you, so it doesn't matter if you aren't a web genius. There are a lot of platforms available – some are free, such as Blogger or WordPress.com, while some are paid-for services, such as Squarespace. The platforms also offer different levels of customisation. What your blog looks like is all down to your blog template (also known as a 'theme'). Blogging platforms offer their own range of templates, or you can buy them elsewhere on sites such as Etsy, Themeforest or Blogzilla.

Q HOW DO I GET READERS?

Once you've started producing posts, you'll want people to read them. Social-media platforms offer a great way to invite an audience over to your blog. There are so many platforms that you can use, such as Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube, Vine, you probably won't be able to keep up with them all. Choose a couple at first to mention your blog and see how you get on. Sharing your posts on your Facebook page can be a good way to



OUR FAVOURITE LIFESTYLE BLOGGERS

These brilliant blogs are sure to leave you feeling inspired

■ CIRCLE OF PINE TREES

(circleofpinetrees.com) The 'Year In Books' series is perfect reading for book lovers, and blogger Laura can also bake a mean cake.

■ ME & ORLA (meandorla.co.uk)

You can't help but be seduced by blogger Sara's dreamy photographs of her life in rural Yorkshire.

■ LITTLEGREENSHED (littlegreenshedblog.co.uk)

Its 'Nature in the Home' series captures blogger Lou's love for the outdoors and interiors.

■ OHJOY (ohjoy.blogs.com)

Joy Cho has been offering up fun content for a decade, with posts on design, fashion and food.

■ PRACTISING SIMPLICITY

(practisingsimplicity.com) One from Down Under, Jodi's blog has lovely photography and honest writing.

introduce friends and family to your blog. As well as sharing your own content, be sure to share other people's, too. Your audience will appreciate it, and it's a key element of being part of the blogging and social-media community. It should mean that other people will start sharing your content, too.

GIVE MORE – AND GET MORE – THIS CHRISTMAS

Instead of dropping some coins into a charity collection box, consider a more inventive way to make life better for others this year

Charitable giving doesn't have to be a one-way street. These ideas involve making an easy commitment, getting involved and seeing the results of your generosity in ways that will enrich your life as well as others'.

SUPPORT A SOCIAL INCUBATOR

You can join with other people to lend money – from as little as £15 – to entrepreneurs in developing countries who want to set up their own micro-businesses.

✱ **Lendwithcare** (lendwithcare.org) is run by Care International, a social development charity and provider of micro-loans for small businesses in developing countries. There are many micro-projects to choose from in countries around the world. When your loan is repaid, you can withdraw the money or lend it out again. You can also buy a gift voucher to give to a friend or family member as a present.

✱ **Buzzbnk** (buzzbnk.org) is a UK platform that supports social entrepreneurs and innovators. Its projects are as diverse as help for the homeless, organic farming and a rugby team for players with disabilities.

TRY CROWDFUNDING

Business start-ups have long raised seed capital via crowdfunding – an alternative form of finance that involves contributions from a large number of people, usually through the internet. Now you can use the power of crowdfunding to support an existing charity, or to fund an appeal or charitable cause that you have set up.

✱ **JustGiving** (justgiving.com) is an online social platform for giving; it now has a crowdfunding option where anyone can raise money for a local or overseas community.

✱ **GlobalGiving** (globalgiving.co.uk) enables you to search for a project – for

example, the education of children who can't afford to go to school – and make a donation towards it.

✱ **Razoo** (razoo.com) helps you to crowdfund your own project or support hundreds of existing charity projects around the world, from animal rescue to environmental concerns.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

✱ **Give peer-to-peer** The appeal of P2P charities is that the money you lend goes directly to the person making the appeal, so you can see evidence of how your loan is making a difference. The best known is Kiva (kiva.org), which connects lenders to people on low incomes around the world and aims to help them work their way out of poverty. GlobalGiving (globalgiving.co.uk) also supports projects in developing countries.

✱ **Sponsor a child** through World Vision (worldvision.org.uk) and ActionAid (actionaid.org.uk) – both of which enable donors to connect with and sponsor a child in an impoverished community. You will receive updates and letters from your chosen child, and the money you send benefits the whole community in which that child lives.

GIVE AS YOU EARN, SHOP OR SELL ONLINE

✱ **Register with Care2Save** (care2save.co.uk) and you'll generate a commission from the retailer each time you shop online, splitting 80% towards your chosen charity and 20% towards Care2Save's charitable work around the world in palliative care. Just select a charity you wish to support when you sign up. The organisation, which is supported by major retailers, such as BT, Boots, House of Fraser and John Lewis, is itself a registered charity.

✱ **Sell via eBay** and you can arrange to donate up to 100% of the sale



proceeds, plus Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, to your chosen good cause. You list your item and select your charity and a discount on your selling fee. The item will be tagged with a blue and yellow ribbon.

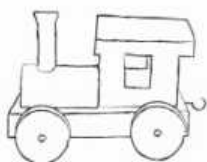
✱ **Sacrifice some salary** If your employer, company or personal pension provider runs a Payroll Giving scheme, you can donate straight from your wages or pension. This happens before tax is deducted from your income. Ask your employer or pension provider if they run a Payroll Giving scheme. The tax relief you get depends on the rate of tax you pay.

HAND OVER AN ASSET

You don't have to pay tax on land, property or shares you donate to charity. You must keep records of the donation to show that you've made the gift or sale, and that the charity has accepted it. When you offer a gift of land, property or shares, the charity may ask you to sell the gift on its behalf. You can do this and still claim tax relief for the donation, but you must keep records of the gift and the charity's request.

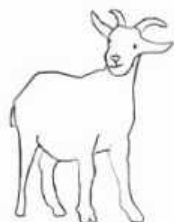
* Tip Register at care2save.co.uk to make money for charity when you shop online with big-name retailers

5 OF THE BEST ETHICAL GIFTS



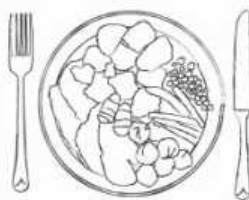
A TOY

For a child who would otherwise get nothing
£10, goodgifts.org



A GOAT

**Provide milk that
will nourish a family**
£25, oxfam.org.uk/shop



A CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Treat a young
homeless person**
£5, centrepointhomeless.org.uk



A SAFE BIRTH

**Pay for essential
midwifery kit**
£27.50, shop.unicef.org.uk



A FUTURE

**Help to protect
endangered fish**
£10, greenpeacegiving.org.uk

In the KITCHEN

This month, fill your kitchen with the irresistible scent of Christmas spices, find the best last-minute party food and celebrate with a bottle of bubbly

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

To-do list for **JANUARY**

EAT delicious gluten-free Christmas cake and mince pies from The Foods of Athenry, available from foodsofathenry.ie and Ocado.

DRINK a fruity red wine that's perfect with a roast, such as Exquisite Collection Limestone Coast Cabernet Sauvignon, £6.49, Aldi.

TREAT a loved one to a day of beekeeping or foraging at Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's River Cottage Cookery School in Dorset. Courses start at £135. See rivercottage.net.

Fill your home with the aroma of freshly baked spiced biscuits. They make great gifts (stack and tie with baker's twine) or hang them on the tree. Find recipes at goodtoknow.co.uk

Try a new taste...

STAR ANISE

A spice that's name describes it perfectly – star-shaped with aniseed-flavour seeds. Widely used in Asian cooking, it is particularly good with roast duck and braised pork. It also adds a warming spiciness to sweet syrups for pouring over cakes and pastries, such as baklava. Here, we've used it to add festive flavours to a delicious spiced cider punch.

HOW TO MAKE For six glasses of mulled cider, pour 1.5ltr dry cider into a large saucepan. Add 100g golden caster sugar, 2 cinnamon sticks, 2 star anise and 1tsp allspice. Add strips of zest from 1 orange and 1 lemon to the pan. Warm over a low heat, stirring, until the sugar has completely dissolved, then leave on a low heat for a further 10min to allow the flavours to infuse, taking care not to let it boil. To serve, ladle into six heatproof glasses or cups.



A glass of warming mulled cider is the perfect drink after an evening of carol singing

3 of the best PARTY FOODS

Sweet treats

Less messy than traditional churros, these mini versions are filled with chocolate sauce 12 chocolate and hazelnut filled mini churros (frozen), Tesco



£2



£5.99

Spice it up

Flavour-packed chorizo cups filled with chicken, piquillo pepper and smoked paprika mousse 10 chicken & chorizo cups, Marks & Spencer

Meat-free magic

Veggie heaven. Puff pastry rolls filled with feta, chickpeas and red pepper, and sprinkled with a tomato crumb 12 sensational veggie rolls, Cook



£8

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

This giant cracker will help make your party go with a bang. It's filled with 40 festive chocolates, plus 12 party hats and jokes

Rather large cracker, Hotel Chocolat

£36



IDEAL GREAT DEAL

No celebration is complete without a glass of bubbly

£14.99

Fabulous fizz

Fine, delicate bubbles with a hint of fruity flavours, including apple and pineapple La Marca Prosecco di Conegliano Valdobbiadene Extra Dry NV DOCG, Majestic Wine



£10



Anytime treat

Refreshing and fruity, this Prosecco is as delicious for Christmas Day brunch as it is for a New Year's Eve party Taste The Difference Conegliano Prosecco, Sainsbury's

Give a retro buffet A MODERN TWIST

Put on a fine spread for a gathering of friends with these delicious updates on classic buffet dishes

ALL RECIPES SERVE 8-10 AS PART OF A BUFFET



The twist: a more sophisticated take on a simple ham and Cheddar quiche, this teams salty blue cheese with luscious, sweet figs

Coronation turkey

TAKES 20MIN

■ 1 onion, chopped ■ 1tbsp olive oil ■ 1tsp Cajun spice mix ■ 2tsp chopped dried chipotle chillies ■ 200g natural yoghurt ■ Zest and juice of 2 limes ■ 500g cooked turkey, torn into chunks ■ 400g tinned black-eyed beans, drained ■ 200g tinned sweetcorn, drained ■ Large jar of roasted red peppers, drained and sliced ■ Bunch of coriander ■ 2tbsp ready-made French dressing

1 Fry the onion in the oil for 10min. Stir in the spice mix and dried chipotle chillies, cook for 1min, then set aside to cool.

2 Add the yoghurt, lime zest and juice, and the turkey to the spiced onion, then stir well.

3 In a mixing bowl, combine the black-eyed beans, sweetcorn, roasted peppers, two thirds of the coriander leaves and the dressing. Spoon the bean mixture onto a plate, then top with the turkey, the remaining coriander leaves and freshly ground black pepper.

Cook's tip

For vegetarians, mix the yoghurt and chillies with the bean mix and serve in a separate bowl

Showpiece quiche

TAKES 20MIN PLUS 1HR 35MIN IN THE OVEN

■ Plain flour, for dusting ■ 500g shortcrust pastry ■ 40g butter ■ 2 leeks, finely sliced ■ 2tbsp sherry ■ 175g ricotta cheese ■ 4 eggs, beaten ■ 100ml double cream ■ 100g blue cheese, crumbled ■ 1tsp thyme leaves ■ 4 figs, halved ■ 2tsp olive oil

1 Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 5. Dust a worksurface with flour, then roll the pastry out to the thickness

of a pound coin. Grease a deep, 23cm-diameter, loose-based tart tin, then place the pastry in it and trim the edges with a sharp knife. Line the tin with baking paper, fill with baking beans, place on a hot baking tray and blind bake for 20min.

2 Remove the beans and paper, then bake for a further 10-15min. Reduce the oven temperature to 160°C/325°F/Gas 3. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a

frying pan and cook the leeks for 10min. Add the sherry and cook for 2min to reduce. Remove from the heat.

3 Beat the ricotta, eggs and cream until smooth, then add the blue cheese, thyme and leeks. Season and pour into the case, top with the figs, brushing each with oil, and bake for 1hr until set with a slight wobble. Remove from the oven and cool in the tin before turning out. Serve at room temperature.

The twist: less fruity and more spicy than a traditional coronation chicken, this is perfect for using up your leftover Christmas turkey



Dressed salmon

TAKES 30MIN PLUS 2HR MARINATING

■ 750g side of salmon ■ Zest and juice of 4 limes, plus 1 lime, cut into wedges, to serve ■ 100ml rum ■ 3tbsp soy sauce ■ 3tbsp honey ■ 2 garlic cloves, crushed ■ Large bunch of coriander, chopped ■ 2 avocados, diced ■ Bunch of spring onions, finely sliced ■ 4tbsp olive oil

1 Put the salmon in a large freezer bag with half the lime zest and juice (reserving the other half), plus the rum, soy sauce, honey and garlic. Put in the fridge and leave to marinate for at least 2hr.

2 Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/Gas 7 and line a roasting tin with greaseproof paper. Remove the salmon from the bag and place it in the tin. Bake in the oven for 15min until cooked through.

3 Pour the marinade from the freezer bag into a pan and simmer for 5min until thickened, then drizzle onto the cooked salmon.

4 In a bowl, mix the remaining ingredients with the lime zest and juice. Season with salt and pepper. Place the salmon on a platter, top with the avocado mixture and serve with lime wedges.



The twist: a poached salmon dressed with cucumber slices used to be a buffet stalwart – this baked version has a sticky glaze and an avocado topping

Baked Alaska

TAKES 50MIN PLUS OVERNIGHT SOAKING AND FREEZING FOR 4HR

■ 200g mixed dried fruit ■ 4tbsp brandy ■ 400g brioche loaf, crust removed and cut into 1cm-thick slices ■ 750ml chocolate ice cream ■ 4 egg whites ■ 180g caster sugar ■ 1½tbsp cornflour ■ 1tsp white wine vinegar

1 Mix the fruit and alcohol, and leave to soak overnight. Line a 2lb pudding basin with clingfilm, then line tightly with the brioche. Mash the ice cream with the soaked fruit until well mixed, then spoon into the bowl. Top with a brioche layer, cover with clingfilm and freeze for at least 4hr.

2 Preheat the oven to 240°C/475°F/Gas 9. Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Gradually add sugar until stiff peaks form again. Sift in the cornflour, add the vinegar and whisk to combine.

3 Unwrap the pudding and put it on an ovenproof plate. Spoon the meringue onto the outside of the bombe until it's covered, leaving it 'peaky'. Place on a baking tray and bake for 5-8min or until golden.

The twist: a standard baked Alaska is given a festive spin with the addition of boozy dried fruit mixed into the ice cream



The twist: instead of big baked potatoes, these mini ones are a more refined version

Cook's tip If you've got big eaters coming, bulk out the buffet by cooking some couscous with stock, then stirring coriander and pomegranate seeds into it

Garlic jackets

TAKES 15MIN PLUS 45MIN IN THE OVEN

■ 20 small potatoes ■ 100g butter, softened ■ 2 garlic cloves, crushed ■ 1tbsp chopped flat-leaf parsley

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Slice a thin layer off the bottom of each potato, so that they sit on a roasting tray. Using a melon baller, scoop out a

hole from the top of each one. Roast the potatoes for 45min, until cooked. **2** Meanwhile, mix the butter, garlic and parsley, shape into a log and wrap in clingfilm. Put it in the fridge for 10min to firm up, then take it out and cut off 20 chunks. **3** Top each potato with a chunk of garlic butter.

In the GARDEN

Make the most of your outdoor space this month with our expert tips and essential know-how

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

To-do list for **JANUARY**

PICK tasty, easy-to-grow leeks through winter for soups, casseroles and steaming or braising. Sow seeds from February, move seedlings in June and harvest from autumn.

PLANT bare-root roses. Soak in a bucket of muddy water overnight, then sow in a sunny site. Dig a generous hole, fill with water and allow to drain before planting the rose, then add organic matter and fertiliser.

SOW delphinium seeds in late January in seed compost – look for RHS-trialled varieties, such as 'Pagan Purples', 'Double Innocence' and 'Rosy Future'.

Winter is the best time to plant bare-root roses to guarantee a summer of beautiful blooms

Grow something beautiful...

HAMAMELIS

These beautifully scented, deciduous shrubs are part of the witch hazel family, and are a delight in the winter garden when colour is scarce. Their velvety flowers come in gold, orange and red, bloom for up to five weeks and are frost resistant. Bring a few stems indoors for a striking feature.

HOW TO GROW Multi-stemmed and up to 5m high, these shrubs are hardy, maintenance free and need little pruning. Plant where you can enjoy the fragrance, such as lining a path or border, or in a confined space. They enjoy neutral to slightly acidic, free-draining soil in an open, sunny patch – just ensure young plants are protected by avoiding exposed spots. The only downside is that you need to be patient, as they can take up to three or four years to hit their stride.



With its stunning yellow, red and gold hues, witch hazel makes a striking and fragrant winter display

VARIETIES TO TRY

BEST FOR

Hamamelis mollis 'Imperialis'



This medium sized deciduous shrub reaches H2m, with fragrant yellow flowers and a hint of red at the base.

Planting beside a path in full sun or partial shade, where you can enjoy the scent as you pass by.

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Copper Cascade'



With beautiful, richly coloured flowers, from deep orange to yellow at the tips, this variety also has a delicate scent.

Creating an informal woodland feel. Under-plant with snowdrops and aconites for splashes of bold colour.

Hamamelis x intermedia 'Diane'



Thought to have the best copper hued flowers, which follow bright autumn foliage in yellow, orange and red.

Making a striking statement in sunny winter borders where there's plenty of room for it to spread.

Weekend project WITH ROGER PLATTS



Plant bare-rooted and container-grown trees this month to bring structure, height and wildlife into your garden. November to March is the dormant season and, providing the ground hasn't frozen over, this is the ideal time for planting.



Give wildlife a new home for next year by planting trees

- Choose from bare-rooted or pricier container-grown species. If it's the latter, ensure the tree is well established in its pot.
- I prefer planting in a square hole, so roots grow into corners rather than in a circle. It's vital to match the depth of the original pot, mix in a little compost when planting and finish with mulch.
- Aid irrigation during dry summer months by coiling a section of perforated drainage pipe around the root ball, to deliver water directly.
- Stake at about 60cm above the ground to support the tree for the first two years.

Roger Platts is an RHS judge, horticulturalist and award-winning garden designer

A smart divan upholstered in on-trend grey fabric complements a modern scheme



WIN £1,500 to spend on a bed

Enjoy a better night's sleep with a stylish new bed or hand-made mattress from Button & Sprung

The experts at Button & Sprung believe buying your dream bed should be simple. That's why the company offers 12 beautiful styles of bed, as either a bedstead or divan, and a range of elegant upholstery fabrics.

Remember that it's your mattress that affects how you sleep, so choose the best mattress you can afford. The hand-made mattresses at Button & Sprung have been designed to cater for every comfort level. Both the beds and mattresses come with a 10-year guarantee and no-quibble free returns within 100 nights, so you can ensure you've chosen the perfect design.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Button & Sprung to give five lucky winners £1,500 each to spend at either the company's London showroom or online at buttonandsprung.com.

4 EASY WAYS TO ENTER

BY PHONE Call 0905

652 2138 and leave your answer to the question on the coupon (below), plus your name, address and phone number. Lines are open from 25 November 2015 until midnight on 7 January 2016. Calls cost £1 each, plus your telephone company's network access charge.

BY TEXT Text IHWINA

followed by a space and your answer, then your name, house number and postcode to 85088. Texts cost £1 per text, plus your usual network rate. When you enter by text, you may in future get SMS marketing messages from Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and Ideal Home. If you don't want to, please end your text with NO INFO.

BY POST Fill in the

coupon (below) and send to Button & Sprung/Ideal Home January 2016 competition, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB to arrive no later than 7 January 2016.

ONLINE Enter online at housetohome.co.uk/competitions

WIN £1,500 TO SPEND AT BUTTON & SPRUNG

SEND TO Button & Sprung/Ideal Home January 2016 competition, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB to arrive no later than 7 January 2016.

QUESTION How many styles of bed are available at Button & Sprung?

A) 10 B) 11 C) 12

Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Title _____ First name _____

Surname _____ Address (BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE) _____

Postcode _____

Daytime phone number _____ Home phone number _____

Email address _____ Year of birth _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS Five winners will each receive £1,500 to spend at Button & Sprung. No cash alternative allowed. Competition is open to UK mainland entrants only. Delivery costs are to be included in the value of the prize. If the value of the product chosen exceeds £1,500, delivery costs will need to be covered by the winner. Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, will collect your personal information to process your entry. Would you like to receive emails from Ideal Home and Time Inc. (UK) Ltd containing news, special offers and product and service information, and take part in our magazine research via email? If yes, please tick here ☐. Ideal Home and Time Inc. (UK) Ltd would like to contact you by post or telephone to promote and ask your opinion on our magazines and services. Please tick here if you would prefer not to hear from us ☐. Time Inc. (UK) Ltd may occasionally pass your details to carefully selected organisations so they can contact you by telephone or post with regards to promoting and researching their products and services. Please tick here if you prefer not to be contacted ☐. Time Inc. (UK) Ltd, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU (Registration no 3731200 England)

Button & Sprung



Andalusia is one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, where the excesses of modern life don't seem to have taken root. It is the Spain of Carmen, Figaro and flamenco.

- **Return flights** from most UK airports, taxes and transfers

- Six nights in hand picked **three- and four-star** hotels with breakfast in Seville, Granada and Mijas
- **Fully escorted tours** of the historic city of Seville, the stunning Alhambra in Granada – one of Europe's most impressive palaces and fortresses – plus the ancient towns of Cordoba and Ronda
- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager



This tour of Thailand and Laos combines one of Southeast Asia's best loved destinations with its fascinating neighbour.

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers
- Stay in hand picked **four- and five-star** hotels with breakfast and eight meals
- **Stay in a riverside lodge** in Laos, and at Chiang Rai's five star Dusit Island Resort
- **Escorted sightseeing** to the Mekong in Laos visiting tribal communities on a boat cruise, and Thailand's Golden Triangle
- **Escorted** by a tour manager



Iceland is like nowhere else, with its landscape forged and still being moulded by the essential forces of water, ice and fire.

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers
- Four nights in **three- or four-star** hotels with breakfast
- **Visits** to Reykjavik, Thingvellir National Park, Thingvallavatn Lake, the lava plateau at Threngsli pass, the immense Myrdalsjokull glacier and breathtaking Gullfoss Waterfall
- **Whale and dolphin watching** cruise and puffins on Reynisfjara's volcanic sand beach
- **See the Eyjafjallajökull volcano** and relax in the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa
- **Escorted** by a tour manager



Experience one of Europe's most scenic train journeys through the Alps.

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers
- Seven nights in hand picked **four-star** hotels with half board
- **Comprehensive sightseeing**, including St Moritz, the stunning Bernina Express rail journey and Lake Maggiore
- **A lake cruise** to Bellagio, one of Italy's most beautiful villages, and a private visit to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello and its inspirational gardens
- **Escorted** by a tour manager

For your FREE Riviera colour brochure please complete the coupon below and send it to Riviera Travel, New Manor, 328 Wetmore Road, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire DE14 1SP

Please send me your River Cruise brochure ☐ and/or your Escorted Tours brochure ☐

Title _____ Name _____ Address _____
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SELECTED DEPARTURES FROM APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2016. THE PRICE INCLUDES

- **Return rail*** and Eurostar, or flights, taxes and transfers
- Beautifully appointed **five-star** cabins with hotel standard beds, private bathrooms and river views
- **Exceptional cuisine** with full board throughout
- **Extensive** and fully inclusive touring programmes



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£949PP

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Immerse yourself in deepest France and its hauntingly beautiful landscape of craggy cliffs and sparklingly pure rivers.

SELECTED DEPARTURES FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER 2016. THE PRICE INCLUDES

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers or return Eurostar and TGV
- Seven nights **four- and three-star** superior accommodation with breakfast and five dinners
- **Walking tours** of Carcassonne, Sarlat and Lascaux
- **Cruise** along the Dordogne river and see Marqueyssac gardens
- **Tours** to Cahors and Albi's gothic cathedral and museum
- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager

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TO BOOK ONLINE or watch videos from a selection of our tours, visit ideriviera.co.uk

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Ideal Home Wine, in association with Virgin Wines, is delighted to offer readers a better than half price saving on a selection of 12 red wines, direct from small, independent winemakers across the world. Plus, we're also including a bottle of prosecco FREE (normally £9.99). We have a limited allocation of these boutique wines reserved at this price, so it's strictly limited to one case per customer.

The case includes: 1 x Il Cortile Sereno Prosecco Brut, Italy; 2 x La Reserve Tolosane, France; 2 x Don Lotario Navarra Gran Reserva, Spain; 2 x Los Monitos Shiraz, Chile; 2 x Messent Park Wrattenbully Shiraz Cabernet, Australia; 2 x Mora Vista Merlot Malbec, Argentina; 2 x Finca Los Principes La Canada Rioja, Spain.

JUST
£65.88
FOR 12
BOTTLES



TO ORDER, visit virginwines.co.uk/idealhome4 or call 0843 224 1001, quoting VA1124

*P&P is £7.99 at checkout. UK delivery only. You must be 18 years or over to buy alcohol. Strictly one promotional case per customer. New customers only. Not to be combined with any other promotional discount or offer. Calls may be monitored or recorded. Wines are subject to availability and may be substituted for a similar wine of equal or greater value at our discretion. There is no obligation to buy any more wine. For full terms and conditions, visit virginwines.co.uk. Your contract of goods is with Virgin Wines, a company wholly independent of Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.



Cluster several metal pendants together for an eclectic feel



Add wow factor in a bedroom with a statement table lamp

GET 20% OFF stunning lighting

Make a statement with beautiful lamps and pendants from lighting company Pooky

Anyone who has ever gone out shopping in search of decorative lighting knows how hard it is to find standout products at affordable prices. Lighting company Pooky sells elegant lamps, pendants and shades, as well as some more eclectic designs, at reasonable prices.

The Pooky design team works with manufacturers around the world to create lights that are made to last, and it is constantly producing new, on-trend designs with extra colour and quirkiness to delight customers. Most of the company's products can be viewed in its London showroom

in Chelsea Wharf or by appointment at its warehouse near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Alternatively, you can browse through the whole collection online at pooky.com and play around with combinations of lamps, shades, wall lights and ceiling pendants. Once you have chosen your lighting, enjoy free delivery to your home.

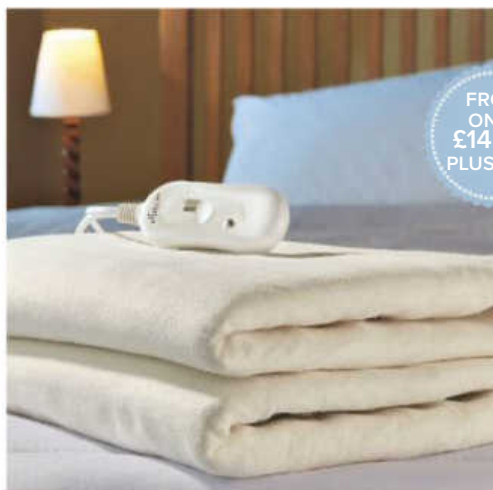
Ideal Home has teamed up with Pooky to offer readers a fantastic 20% off all its products. To claim your discount, visit the London showroom with this page, order online at pooky.com or call 020 7351 3003 and quote the promotional code IH20.

HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To redeem your 20% discount, simply visit the Pooky store at 25 Chelsea Wharf, 15 Lots Road, London SW10 0QJ, and present this page at the checkout. Alternatively, visit pooky.com and enter the promotional code IH20 at the checkout, or place your order over the phone by calling 020 7351 3003 and quoting the promotional code IH20.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS This offer is available from 25 November 2015 to 14 January 2016. This promotional code cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers or promotions. There is no cash alternative.

pooky



FROM
ONLY
£14.99
PLUS P&P



ELECTRIC BLANKETS

These luxurious electric blankets heat up quickly, keeping you lovely and warm on the coldest of nights. They feature three heat settings, a heat-level indicator and removable power cords for hand-washing. They come in a choice of luxury soft polyester or cosy fleece lining, and there are three sizes: single, double and king. The single is heated by a 50W element and has a detachable controller. The double and king each have a 50W element and two controllers, which enable you to always keep your half of the bed at the perfect temperature.

Soft standard	Code	Was	Price
Single (150cm x 70cm)	D8907	£24.99	£14.99
Double (140cm x 150cm)	D6672	£39.99	£24.99
King (160cm x 150cm)	D6673	£59.99	£29.99

Cosy fleece	Code	Was	Price
Single (150cm x 70cm)	D6674	£39.99	£24.99
Double (140cm x 150cm)	D6675	£59.99	£39.99
King (160cm x 150cm)	D6676	£74.99	£49.99



BUY ONE
GET ONE
FREE!

HALOGEN HEATERS

This heater (H52cm x W29cm x D21cm) will warm any room in minutes. Mounted on an oscillating base, it costs from 5p per hour to run and provides three levels of heat: 400W, 800W and 1,200W. Features include built-in overheat protection, a safety grill and an anti-fall design.

Halogen heater	Code	Price
White	D8805	£39.99
Black	D5736	£39.99
Two-pack spare halogen tubes	D6209	£4.99



ONLY
£29.99
PLUS P&P

Pili Pala

LADIES' SHEEPSKIN SLIPPERS

Save £10 on these wonderfully comfortable slippers, which feature a sheepskin lining, a sheepskin collar, plus a real suede upper and a lightweight EVA sole. In sizes 3-8.

Item	Code	Was	Price
Blue	S176BL	£39.99	£29.99
Camel	S176CM	£39.99	£29.99
Beige	S176BG	£39.99	£29.99
Pink	S176PN	£39.99	£29.99



FROM
ONLY
£19.99

INDOOR ILLUMINATED WHITE BLOSSOM TREE

Perfect for Christmas, these decorative trees will add a festive touch to your home. The warm-white LEDs bring the blossom to life and create an atmospheric glow. They're available in two sizes – 45cm and 80cm – are mains powered and come with a 5m-long cable.

Item	Code	Was	Price
40cm (40 LEDs)	D8024	£59.99	£19.99
80cm (128 LEDs)	D8023	£79.99	£39.99

TO ORDER, call 0871 911 7011* quoting 56159
or visit clifford-james.co.uk/56159

TERMS AND CONDITIONS *Calls cost 13p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. P&P is £4.95 per order. 'Was' pricing refers to original selling prices offered on promoter's website cjooffers.co.uk, and in its retail store between 24/08/15 and 24/11/15. Offer subject to availability and open to UK mainland only. Please allow seven working days for delivery. Return faulty/unused goods in resealed original packaging for a refund or replacement within 30 days. Please note that postage is not refunded on unsuitable items or cancelled orders. Cards will be charged by, and your contract for supply of goods is with, BVG Airflo – a company wholly independent of Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.



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TREND ALERT!

PERSONAL BLENDERS

Save money, get healthy or just become really good at making cocktails with these pint-sized drinks makers

WHY WE LOVE THEM... Promised yourself you'd start eating breakfast or stop spending so much on lunch? Then you need a blender that can blitz up a single smoothie or even a serving of soup in seconds. Best of all, they can do the job in a cup you take away with you, so there's no messy decanting or extra washing up. If your mornings are chaotic, prep your ingredients the night before, put them into the blending beaker and pop it in the fridge. The next day, just grab the beaker, blitz the

contents, add a lid and you're ready to go. I throw in a couple of ice cubes before blending, so my oaty breakfast smoothie stays cold on the commute – if you want to do the same, choose a machine that's designed to crush ice.

PRODUCTS WE LOVE... Basic models, such as Breville's, are great for making smoothies and shakes, while powerful machines cost more, but pay you back in versatility. The top-of-the-range Vitamix, for example, can make dips, sauces and soups, as well as drinks.



£399

Souped up S30 personal blender, *Vitamix*

Has the power to blend all fruits, root vegetables and grains, so you can make everything from smoothies and hot soups to dips and dressings



£49.99

Good to go Blend-Active Pro, *Breville*

The blending bottle fits into most car and bike cup holders, and has a leak-proof sports cap for gym bunnies. The spice grinder doubles as a place to store the blades



£49.99

Juice boost Easy Blend and Juice Deluxe, *Morphy Richards*

Includes a fruit tamper and mesh filter, so you can blend fresh juices. It can crush ice, too, and has five takeaway beakers



£99.99

No guesswork Nutri-Ninja Pro with Auto-IQ, *Lakeland*

Another powerful model that's great at extracting nutrients and can crush ice and nuts, with presets that deliver perfectly blended drinks every time

GIRL ABOUT TECH'S MANIFESTO

*I believe that
tech should...*

- Make your life easier
- Be super-simple to use
- Stand the test of time
- Look good and work brilliantly

FACT! More than 35% of Brits have lost photos from a smartphone – that's 11.8 billion snaps in total

Gorenje's flexible fridge-freezer

Need more fridge space?
Then just use the freezer



FEATURES WE LOVE

1 Flexible spaces I'm currently panicking about how I'm going to fit the ingredients for Christmas dinner for 12 people inside my fridge – so if only I had this beauty. Its freezer can be converted into a 0°C zone for meat or a full-on fridge in under two hours. All I'd need to do is ditch the peas and a half-eaten tub of ice cream (how long has it been in there?), and load the lower part with my turkey and trimmings.

2 Clever storage The freezer's XXL drawer is big enough for a huge bird or several pizzas, the Multibox is designed to store butter and cheese, and there's a metal rack to keep bottles neat and tidy while freeing up shelf space.

3 An ultra-fast freezing compartment A combination of technologies works hard to keep your food fresh, like the ultra-fast freezing compartment designed to seal in food's nutrients, or the humidity-controlled vegetable drawer that will keep wimpy salad items, such as tomatoes, fresher for days longer.

4 Smart technology The fridge analyses your habits and can eventually predict when you're going to open the door. Then, just before you do, it will decrease the temperature by a couple of degrees so your food isn't affected by the sudden blast of warm air, which could cause it to perish sooner.



NRC6192TX
ConvertActive
fridge-freezer,
£619, Gorenje

Object of
desire

Extra oven space



It's not just fridge space that's precious at Christmas – your oven and hob are likely to be feeling the strain, too. One way to take the heat off is to get yourself a bit on the side... like Hotpoint's latest microwave. Capable of far more than merely heating up leftovers, this combi model has a Steam & Boil mode for vegetables, a Crisp function that will come in handy for hot mince pies and Multiwave technology that lets you cook anything you would in a conventional oven – including the turkey – but in less time. You'll be surprised how much you can fit inside the 33ltr cavity, too, which is lined with tough stainless steel. It's definitely one for the wish list.



Ultimate Collection
MWH 33343B combi
microwave, Hotpoint

The hi-tech way to...

Pamper a pet

Treat your furry friends
to a gadgety gift



£19.95

Pussycat PC

Cat Top, Prezybox

Keep your cat's paws off your computer with a kitty laptop that they can safely get their claws into, complete with a fluffy 'mouse'

Laser quest

Frolicat Bolt pet laser toy, Argos

The modern-day equivalent of a ball of string, this skittle-shaped toy produces random patterns to both amuse and exercise your moggy

£22.99



£124

Go fetch

iFetch ball launcher, Amazon.co.uk

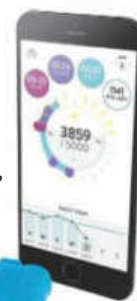
Keep small dogs happy and healthy with this ball launcher – it fires at up to 30ft and can be powered by the mains or batteries

Health check

FitBark, FitBark

Give a dog this bone and it will track its activity for an insight into Fido's wellbeing, and give a 'BarkPoints' goal based on its age, weight and breed

£68*



FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE
FACT SOURCES KODAK ALARIS, TEFAL *CONVERTED FROM \$99.95

FACT! One in three people never bother to check the care label on clothes before buying them



You'll love this...

Palm-sized PC

Computers used to fill rooms, but this dinky desktop fits in your hand. Get one to replace the office oldie!

My battle for a home office is ongoing. The space in question – a makeshift desk in the corner – suffers frequent invasions from toys, tools and tat. Still, I'm hoping I can fight back with this little gem. Despite being the size of a takeaway box, it has the storage and processing power to rival most space-hogging desktops. Alternatively, plug it into the telly and have yourself a big-screen PC! It's also port-tastic at the back, with an SD card slot, HDMI



Pavilion Mini (4GB RAM, 1TB storage), £300, HP

port and four USB 3.0 inlets for your mouse, keyboard, webcam and so on, or you can go wireless by pairing them up to the built-in Bluetooth. Hurrah! With my old tower gone, I might just treat myself to a Bissley filing cabinet. Take that, clutter!

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER

OR TRY ONE
OF THESE...
*Mini desktop
computers*

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY



£399

Talks to iPhones

Mac Mini (4GB RAM, 500GB storage), Apple

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'If you own an iPhone, you'll be able to send and receive calls and texts from this computer. The powerful processor keeps things running smoothly when you're streaming HD video or flitting between apps'



£130

Good for business

Ideacentre Stick 300 (2GB RAM, 32GB storage), Lenovo

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'This PC-on-a-stick plugs into any TV or monitor with an HDMI port, so it's ideal for on-the-go presentations, checking emails or watching a movie back at a hotel. Just don't expect the 32GB to hold your entire media library'



£330

Big on storage

Revo One RL85 (4GB RAM, 2TB storage), Acer

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Choose this if you love music and movies – you can store plenty of both on the 2TB hard drive. Plus there's an app that controls it, so you don't have to use a keyboard and mouse'



BATTLE THE DARK SIDE
FOR UP TO
15 HOURS LONGER*



STAR
THE FORCE AWAKENS
WARS
ONLY IN CINEMAS

*Based on Alkaline Duracell Ultra Power AA vs leading Zinc batteries in Hasbro Lightsaber performance testing. © & TM 2015 Lucasfilm Ltd. © 2015 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. Used under authorisation.

You'll love this...

Statement standalone speaker



Zeppelin
Wireless, £499,
Bowers & Wilkins

The iconic Zeppelin is flying high again... this time as a universal wireless speaker

The original Zeppelin once ruled the roost as an iPhone dock, and now it's been reinvented as a wireless speaker, with Control app for Android, as well as Apple devices. It streams music via Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, AirPlay and Spotify Connect, and when I was lucky enough to get my hands (and ears) on one, I was treated to beautifully balanced bass, detailed mid-tones and twinkling treble.

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER

OR TRY ONE OF THESE... *Wireless music players*

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



£799

△ *Space invader*

BeoPlay A6, Bang & Olufsen

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Its boomerang shape fills the entire room with music. Just swipe your hand over it to skip a track'

Mid-century music ▷

R7 radiogram, Ruark Audio

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Now available in matt white, this sexy stereo console lets you play music via Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and even CD'



£2,000



£650*

◁ *Soulful soundbar*

DIVA, Libratone

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Can beef up the sound of your telly or stream music, with wool covers in 14 shades'

Girl About Tech explains...

Smart home security

Control and protect your home from anywhere with a worry-free Wi-Fi security system

WHAT IS IT? As you've leafed through this month's issue, no doubt you've been thinking about ways that you can make your home even more special, which suggests you're just as keen to keep it safe – and that's where a few Wi-Fi gadgets can help. From cameras that send you a live feed of your living room to sensors that message you if they detect a leak, this tech takes just a couple of minutes to set up, but will give you peace of mind 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

WHY DO I NEED IT? Maybe you're going away on holiday and want a system that will keep an eye on the place and turn the lights on at dusk and off at bedtime, or perhaps you'd just like to know the kids have got home safely from school. There are gadgets that will let you do all this and more, and they won't cost you thousands of pounds or need expert installation.

Standalone smart home devices, such as cameras, can be controlled independently and will send alerts through the related app – in most cases, a device can have multiple users, so your whole family can access them. And there are a growing number of hub-based systems that allow you to control multiple gadgets from one app and create rules (see 4 and 5, right). Importantly, the gadgets are really easy to set up: just download the companion app, power them up and press a few buttons to connect your gadgets to your Wi-Fi. Here's just a flavour of what you can install and how it can all keep you safe and in control...



1 FIT KEYLESS LOCKS

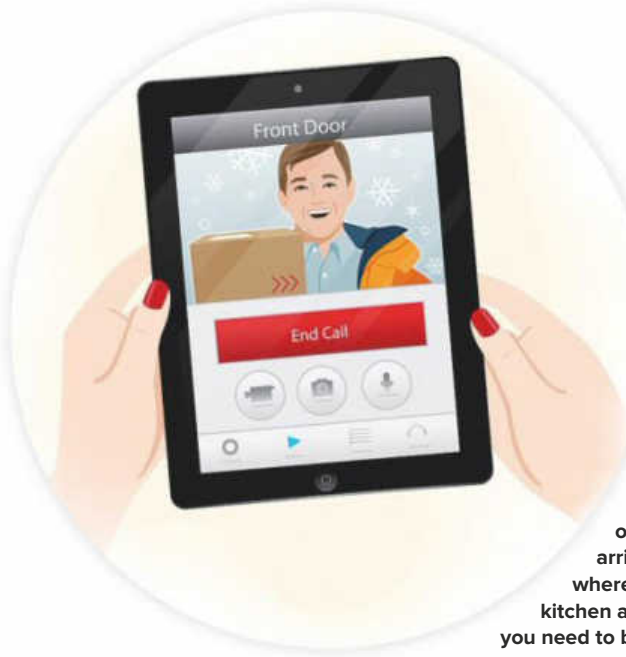
Always losing keys? With Yale's keyless locks, you can gain entry by typing in a PIN code or – if it's hooked up to a Samsung SmartThings hub – with your smartphone. Then, if the kids have been locked out, you can let them in remotely, and if you think you've left the house unlocked, just check and lock up with the app. You can also set up PINs that expire or only work at certain times of day, and give them to a cleaner or visiting family instead of a spare key.



2 INSTALL SENSORS

'Contact' sensors send an alert to your phone when someone opens a window or closes a door, so you'll know the kids are home from school, for example. Moisture sensors detect leaks, and motion sensors will tell you if the dog or, far worse, a burglar gets into your bedroom.

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATIONS MONIKA ROE



3 SET UP CAMERAS

Wi-Fi cameras give a wide-angle view of what's happening at home 24/7, which you can see from an app on your phone. They'll also record footage of unusual activity triggered by movement or noise, and send an alert so you can act immediately, as it's happening. How much you'll be able to record (and how much it costs) varies, but most systems will give you some free recordings, which are held securely in the cloud for a few days to give you the chance to download them. Some cameras have two-way microphones, so if you have one fitted at the front door and a postman arrives with a parcel, you'll be able to tell them where to leave it. Alternatively, if there's one in the kitchen and you're at the shops wondering whether you need to buy milk, you can ask whoever's at home!

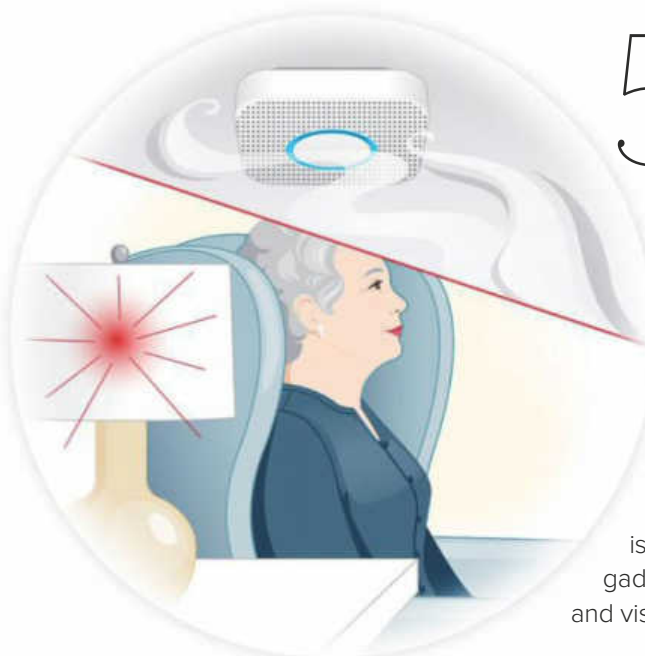
4 BUY A HOME HUB

This connects to your router and allows different smart devices to work together (see below). Not all hubs are compatible with all smart devices, so big players such as Nest and Samsung have introduced logos that third-party products display on their packaging, reading 'Works with Nest', etc.



5 SET UP RULES

Once your gadgets can talk to each other via a hub, it's possible to set up rules, so that if the system detects one thing, it does another. For example, if a Samsung SmartThings motion sensor spots you've arrived home, it can turn on Lixf lightbulbs and your Bose stereo. Or if a Nest Protect detects smoke or carbon monoxide, it can tell your Philips Hue lightbulbs to flash red – useful if anyone at home is hard of hearing. Just ensure that the gadgets are compatible with your hub and visible in your hub's app.



Try these... SMART SECURITY GADGETS



Alarm
Security camera, *Canary*
GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'See an intruder? Call the police and sound the built-in siren with a tap in the app'



Complete system
KX-HN6010EW home-safety starter kit, *Panasonic*

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Easy to set up, it works even if your Wi-Fi is weak and includes a hub and sensors. Add more devices, such as cameras, as you like'



Keyless lock
Keyless connected smart lock, *Yale*

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Connect this lock to a compatible smart hub, such as Samsung SmartThings, and control it with your phone'



Wireless camera
Arlo single HD security camera kit, *Netgear*

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'You can put this weatherproof, battery-powered camera anywhere, and it lets you save footage to your hard drive'

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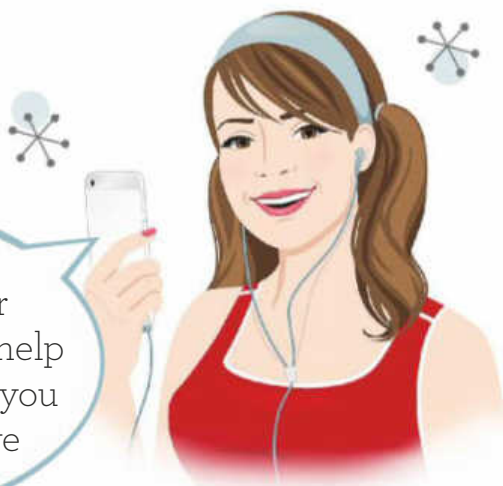
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FFJ5

Appy talk

MUSIC

These apps won't just soundtrack your shower – they can also help you work out and turn you into a digital DJ. Give them a spin!



SPOTIFY

iOS, Android and Windows Phone, free

Think music streaming and this is probably the first app that comes to mind. Its popularity is no fluke – it's easy to navigate the 30 million or more tracks and it's fun to discover new tunes by old favourites with the artist radio station feature. Listen for free or pay £9.99 per month for ad-free music and the option to download tracks to listen offline.

ALSO TRY Rdio for iOS, Android and Windows Phone, free



ROCK MY RUN

iOS and Android, free

Whether you're *Born to Run* or want to get *Stronger*, you'll need some musical motivation, which is where this app comes in. Top DJs, such as David Guetta, have created exclusive mixes for you to work out to and you can even pick a playlist to match your pace. Anything that can 'boost your enjoyment and motivation by up to 35%' is surely worth a try, no?

ALSO TRY Now That's What I Call Running for iOS, free



TIDAL

iOS and Android, free

Set up by Jay-Z and some of his superstar pals, Tidal aims to improve the quality of the music streamed to your phone. Compressed digital music can get a bad rap (no pun intended), but this gives you access to more than 35 million tracks with playback of at least CD standard. It costs from £9.99 per month, but you'll hear more detail in the songs. You'll also find Taylor Swift and Prince on here, not on Spotify.

ALSO TRY Deezer, free for iOS and Android



SONGKICK CONCERTS

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Once it has imported your favourite artists from services, such as Spotify, Facebook and Rdio, this app will build a concert library and send you alerts when bands you love are playing the local Dog & Duck... or your nearest arena. You can then click on to buy tickets. Songkick has listings for cities all over the world, should you be in the mood for live music on your travels.

ALSO TRY Bandsintown, free for iOS and Android



SOUNDHOUND

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What was that tune? Play it, sing it or type in lyrics and all will be revealed through SoundHound. You can then click through to hear it on streaming services, such as Spotify, and, depending on what platform you're using, buy tracks through iTunes, Google Play or Zune. You can also watch videos featuring said tune and discover albums it appears on.

ALSO TRY Shazam, free for iOS, Android and Windows Phone



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ALSO TRY iHeartRadio, free for iOS, Android and Windows Phone



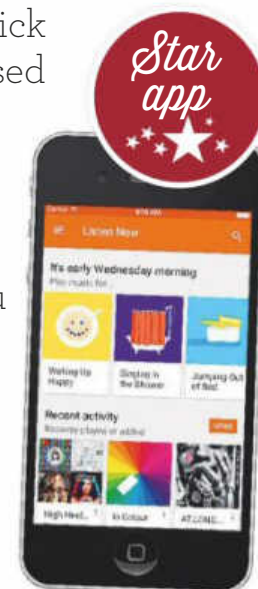
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Google Play Music just pips it thanks to its free cloud storage for 50,000 songs from your own collection, so you can listen to them from any device, anywhere in the world. Pay £9.99 per month and you can also stream 25 million-plus tunes, create personalised radio stations or pick a playlist based on the day and time – so early on a Wednesday morning you might get 'Singing in the Shower'.

ALSO TRY

Apple Music for iOS, free



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Think of SoundCloud as your on-trend friend, giving you a heads up on new music in a way Cheesy FM never can. It has something for everyone, from hip hop to jazz to rock to house, but it also has audiobooks and podcasts on topics as varied as science, spirituality and sport. Fancy yourself as a musician or expert in your field? You can upload your own creations for others to listen to and comment on.

ALSO TRY Discover, £3.99 for iOS

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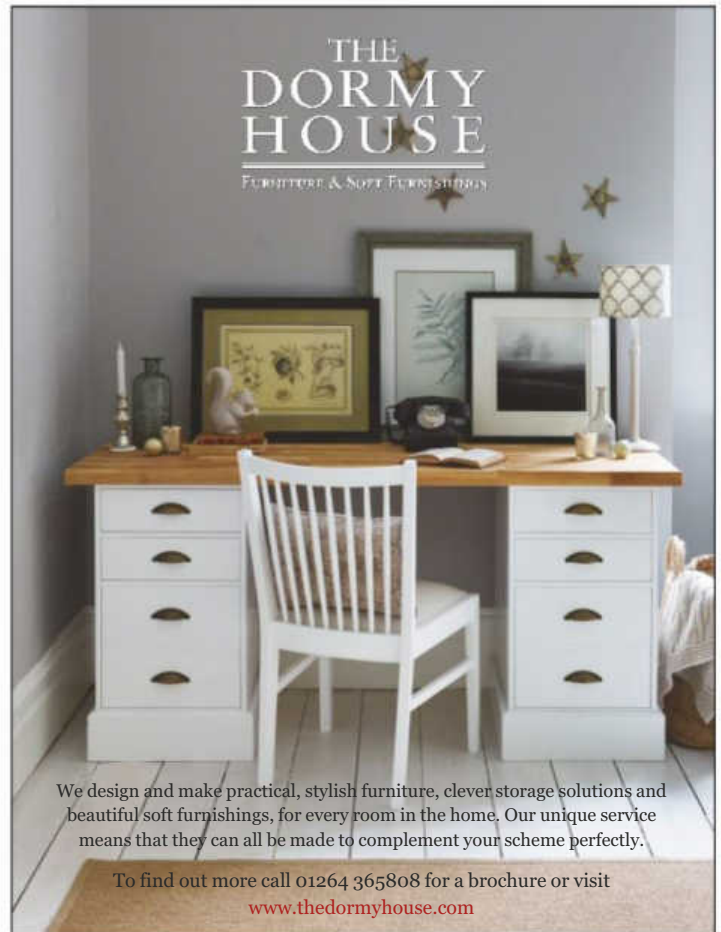
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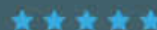
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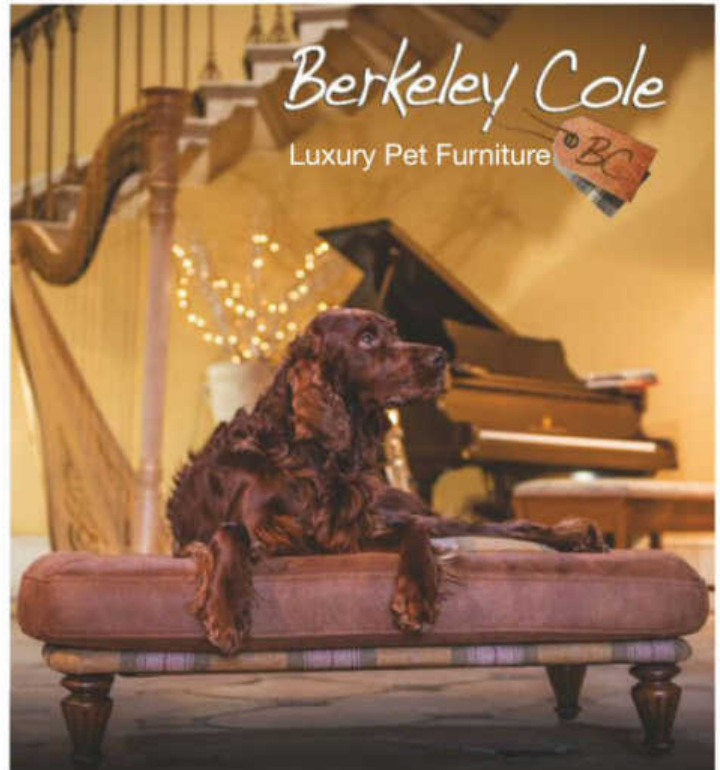
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